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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should non-NMI descent U.S. citizens be allowed to vote on issues relating to Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution?

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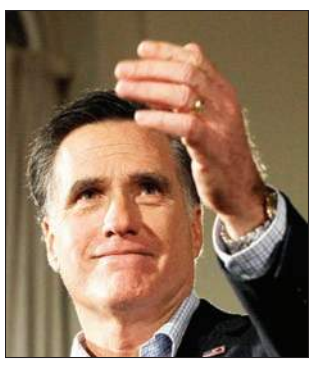
INSIDE



Campaign Run

Mitt Romney bids to become a GOP presidential campaign juggernaut.

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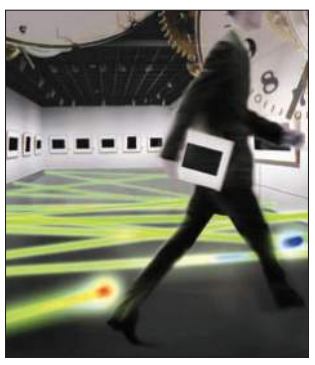

Time Masker

Scientists have made an entire event impossible to see.

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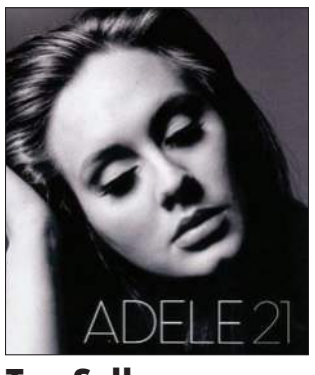

Top-Seller

Adele's "21" is officially the top-selling album of 2011.

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Census: Garapan is most populous

» Census 2010 data shows population of 125 villages in CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United States Census 2010

Saipan's Garapan, Dandan, and Kobelrville are the most populous of the 125 villages in the CNMI in 2010, while at least three villages on Rota each have a population of just one, based on the latest village population count released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

This latest data comes five months after Census released the CNMI's 2010 population count of 53,883—a 22.2-percent drop from 69,221 in 2000—mainly attributed to the shrinking foreign worker base as a result of a slower economy that forced businesses to shut down or cut operations, among other things.

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NEW PROPERTY

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, is flanked by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, left, and Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta as he signs the warranty deed transferring 38,500 square meters of public land at the corner of Navy Hill Road and Middle Road to the newly established Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in a ceremony at the Commonwealth Health Center conference room yesterday. The transferred property is expected to generate revenue for the public hospital.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story on Page 8

Probe sought on delayed food stamp benefits

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed expressed dismay yesterday over the delayed issuance of food stamp benefits to U.S. citizen children of foreign workers, saying he will ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture to look into the matter.

Even before the *Saipan Tribune* reported on the delayed issuance of food stamp vouchers, Syed said he was already approached by many nonresident parents of affected U.S. citizen children, many of whom have not received their December checks because their parents failed to submit to the Nutrition Assistance Program office proof that they have been petitioned for a CW permit by their employers.

Syed

He described as "inhumane" this act of denying eligible children their food stamp aid just because their parents lack some document proving that they are legally on island. This benefit, he said, is intended for U.S. citizen children and not for their nonresident parents. Syed is expected to write both the USDA and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan to seek as-

See PROBE on Page 4

Healthcare corp. faces $15M shortfall on its 1st year alone

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Barely three months after its takeover of the Department of Public Health, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is already expected to incur an estimated shortfall of $15 million by the end of fiscal year 2012.

This was one of the reasons why his administration awarded the healthcare corporation a government lot in an effort to boost its revenue generating efforts and sustain its operations, said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. ***(See related story on Page 8.)***

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Local

Kilili to eat on $4.87 a day for 5 days

Kilili C. Sablan will spend just that much on food for each of five days, beginning Sunday, Jan. 8. Sablan hopes that his action will convince the CNMI government to work with him to get the U.S. Department of Agriculture to include the Northern Marianas in the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"Because of the economic distress we have faced in recent years, there are now thousands of struggling families in the Northern Marianas who receive food stamps," Sablan said. "People have lost their jobs. Their work hours are cut. Their gas and CUC bills are going up. Food stamps are the only way some families can put food on the table. So, for the next week I am going to live on a budget of $4.87 for food each day. $4.87 is the maximum benefit a person on food stamps gets. And that's what I'm going to live on, too."

Sablan asked a registered dietitian on Saipan to develop a menu that remains within the dollar limit but at the same time provides nutritious meals. He noted that "It's important for people to understand that even on this very tight budget, it is possible to eat healthfully."

Sablan has been working to increase food stamp funding since he first came to Congress in 2009. He was able to get a 13-percent increase for the CNMI food stamp grant in line with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. That money was locked in with later annual appropriations.

This year Sablan got another $1 million increase from the Secretary of Agriculture.

"We have a $13.148 million line item in the fiscal 2012 appropriation that Congress just passed," Sablan said. "So we're up about $3 million from when I was first elected to Congress. But it's not good enough."

Sablan has introduced the AYUDA Act, H.R. 1411, to include the Northern Marianas in the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program, and at his request the Senate Appropriations Committee this year instructed the Department of Agriculture to begin planning to integrate the Commonwealth into the national system.

"Average food stamp benefits in Guam, for example, are more than twice as much as in the Northern Marianas, the CNMI's could be, too," said Sablan. "Our local government continues to deny our community a level of benefits available throughout the rest of the United States."

Local officials have resisted the idea, however, saying it would be too expensive and difficult to administer.

"The national program would bring anywhere from $12 million to $24 million additional dollars to the CNMI economy, according to the Congressional Budget Office," Sablan said.

A study Sablan commissioned estimated that this additional food stamp money would mean $2.2 to $5 million in new tax revenue each year for the cash-strapped CNMI government.

"Right now the food stamp program costs about $1.2 million to administer," Sablan explained. "Under the national program the CNMI would have to cover half the administrative costs—which the new tax revenues would more than take care of. That additional money in the economy would be good for businesses and create jobs, too. It's not going to be easy. But life is not easy for a lot of the people I work for either."

Sablan also noted that the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the rollout of a new website that can be of help to individuals struggling to prepare nutritious meals on limited budgets. He praised the USDA's "SuperTracker" website, which allows individuals to compile personalized nutrition and physical activity plans. To access the USDA website, visit www.sablan.house.gov and click on the USDA's "SuperTracker" link. ***(PR)***

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Housing corporation struggles with lack of funds

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The lack of sufficient funds remained the biggest stumbling block for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. in program year 2010.

"The foremost barrier that has had a negative impact on fulfilling the strategies [of the corporation] would be the limited funding versus the high demand for housing and public facilities in the CNMI," the agency stated in its annual report for 2010.

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report or CAPER covers the performance assessment of various grants—mostly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—that the corporation administers: the Community Development Block Grant or CDBG, the Home Investment Partnership Act or HOME, Emergency Shelter Grant Programs or ESG, and Neighborhood Stabilization Program or NSP, the ARRA-funded CDBG-Recovery or CDBG-R, and the ARRA-funded Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program or HPRP.

The corporation obtained $364,162 in NSP funds and $589,165 in HPRP funds in 2009, $880,151 in CDBG funds, $647,474 in HOME, and $63,386 in ESG money in 2010.

Program year 2010 marked the first year of the corporation's five-year consolidated plan.

The corporation submitted the report to Housing and Urban Development before the end of December 2011.

In the report, the corporation underscored the high demand for housing assistance in the CNMI given the dire economic situation on the islands.

Based on the 2000 Census, an estimated 800 to 850 very-low to low-moderate income households are living in severely overcrowded housing and about 200 non-family renter households are in severely overcrowded housing.

As of 2010, the corporation issued a total of 473 vouchers for the HOME program, the Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Multi- Family program. A total of 195 households were assisted through the HPRP while 3,000 "presented the need of housing assistance upon announcement" of the available HPRP funding.

"Homelessness and/or families living in substandard housing under hazardous conditions have become rampant in the previous year, as fuel costs have drastically increased and austerity measures have been implemented in the government. Financial strains have been evident in the CNMI households and have caused a variety of social problems. With HUD's funding, [the corporation] was able to alleviate the financial struggles for a great number of households," the report said.

Meeting housing goals

The corporation reports that it was able to meet the major goals it set for 2010 on housing and special needs housing as well as community development.

It increased homeownership opportunities through its HOME program, building 11 homes and currently has six ongoing homeowner applications and nine homebuyer applications. It also improved housing standards by rehabilitating 12 homes.

In 2010, the corporation was also able to implement the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program, with its first project, Sandy Beach Homes, completed two weeks ahead of schedule in December.

Housing also saw an increase in low-interest lending opportunities as it funded through NSP 1 the rehabilitation of seven homes and gave five families homeownership opportunities amounting to $364,162. It also secured NSP 3 funding in 2010 amounting to $350,0001 that will rehabilitate up to eight foreclosed properties and give more households homeownership opportunities.

The corporation also met its goals to help persons with disabilities, continue supporting programs of the Division of Youth Services and Guma Esperansa, and decrease dependence on non-renewable energy sources and reduce the cost of homeownership.

The agency noted, however, that it has to improve its outreach efforts on Rota. It also recognized that it was not able to increase its housing vouchers due to lack of more funds.

The corporation is a subsidiary of the Commonwealth Development Authority.

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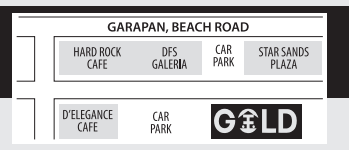

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Fitial admin explains Legislature's almost $1M 'overspending'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's fiscal year 2011 report to the Legislature showed that the Legislature overspent almost $1 million in "personnel" but offset it with a surplus of almost the same amount in "all others" or "operations" expense for a total deficit of $11,156.

But there's more to this than what some lawmakers tried to explain yesterday as the Legislature has been crafting its budget bill in such a way that actual total "personnel" spending is almost split between "personnel" and "operations," so when it's reporting time, the Legislature would almost always have overspending in personnel.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the governor's report on a deficit or variance of $931,101 in the Legislature's personnel spending is accurate.

For fiscal year 2011, the Legislature's personnel allotment was only for over $2.5 million, but actually spent over $3.4 million. This was in the governor's report. Fitial revised the 2011 budget from $132 million to $122 million because of declining revenues.

Inos said what the Legislature did when it crafted the fiscal year 2011 budget was to identify a total of 145 fulltime employees for both the House and Senate, but budgeted these under the "operations," not under "personnel."

The only entities budgeted under "personnel" are the 29 lawmakers whose salaries are constitutionally protected, along with the Legislative Bureau and the CNMI Youth Congress.

The budget for the other 145 FTEs—100 from the House and 45 from the Senate—are in "operations."

"They have over 100 FTEs, meaning they plan to hire these people but put the spending under operations. That's because they don't want to inflate their personnel spending. So where are the people getting paid? From the operations," one administration official said.

Inos, meanwhile, said "the correct procedure will be to reprogram 'all others' into personnel."

"That's the way to resolve the appearance of that report…the previous years were just like that," Inos told reporters. He said the administration has been pointing this out to the Legislature.

Because of questions on the Legislature's budget and spending, some lawmakers questioned yesterday why the Legislative Bureau continues to have an 80-hour work biweekly while many other government employees are subjected to 64 hours.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) told reporters to leave his conference room after calling them in, purportedly to explain the Legislature's fiscal year 2011 spending.

It was only yesterday that the House called for a leadership meeting, days after receiving the governor's financial report on Dec. 31. Moreover, most House members have yet to fully review the financial report as of yesterday.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), meanwhile, said he's confident that the Legislature didn't overrun on personnel costs. He said even if the Legislature wants to spend the amount it wants, it cannot do so unless the Department of Finance approves and cuts the check.

Manglona said they would seek clarification from the administration.

"Of course when something like this, almost $1 million overrun showing in the report, it's very alarming. In times when we have to cut budget across the board, and the departments are really running at skeletal level, we need to be concerned, I guess we need to know why the numbers are coming out this way but again I'm confident we didn't overrun," he said.

In the end, he said it could only be a matter of sitting down together and understanding why the financial report came out the way it did.

The governor said there was a total of $4.176 million in excess spending just for personnel in fiscal year 2011. This contributed to a total deficit of $25.8 million—a combination of over $25.2 million in overspending and over half a million in revenue shortfall.

Time zone's change causes many Samoa passengers to miss flights

» Polynesian Airlines reports more no-shows, late passengers

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—Reports from Pago Pago say last week's move by Samoa to switch time zones has caused some airline passengers to miss flights.

Staff at Polynesian Airlines' office in American Samoa say there have been at least ten cases of people turning up at the airport on the wrong date or way past the check-in time for flights.

Last week, Samoa moved a day ahead of American Samoa.

A senior employee says the mix-up is happening mainly to local residents returning from Apia after the holidays.

He says all passengers were told when they made their reservations or bought tickets of Samoa's dateline change but some forgot and therefore missed their flights.

Others were also not aware that Samoa is an hour ahead of American Samoa between September and April.

CENSUS

From Page 1

Of the 77 villages on Saipan, Garapan has the largest population estimate of 3,983, an 11-percent increase from 3,588 in a 10-year period.

Dandan has a population count of 3,280, a 21-percent increase from only 2,718 in 2000.

Koblerville's current population of 2,493, however, is a 30-percent drop from the previous census count of 3,453.

Saipan's Fina Sisu ranks fourth with 2,451, followed by Kagman III with 2,402, San Vicente with 2,091, and Susupe with 2,078.

With the release of this more detailed report on the CNMI population, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) hopes that his initiative seeking to reduce the number of Saipan members of the House of Representatives—from 18 to nine—will finally move forward.

Palacios' House Legislative Initiative 17-4 seeks to cut the number of seats for Saipan. The initiative has been with the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations since February 2011. The panel said it was waiting for the results of the Census 2010 survey but five months since the population count was released in August, a committee report on the initiative has yet to be released.

On Tinian, 62 percent or 1,939 of its population of 3,136 live in San Jose. Marpo Heights, meanwhile, has a population of 679.

On Rota, Sinapalo has the largest population of 1,297 or 51 percent of the island population of 2,527. Songsong ranks second with 593.

The Fitial administration, through the Department of Commerce said yesterday in a statement that the population counts by villages are important for planning purposes for the business sector, civic planning, community-based networks, and for other purposes.

It said one example of civic planning is the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s infrastructure forecast allocation for water and wastewater for their five to 10 years planning program based on population counts by village levels.

"The administration wishes to express its appreciation to the U.S. Census Bureau for pre-releasing these important data ahead of schedule. Further population demographics will be made available late spring of this year," said press secretary Angel Demapan.

Saipan villages

Saipan's population shrunk by 22.7 percent or by 14,172-from 62,392 in 2000 to 48,220 in 2010.

The 10 villages with the largest population are: Garapan, 3,983; Dandan, 3,280; Koblerville, 2,493; Fina Sisu, 2,451; Kagman III, 2,402; San Vicente, 2,091; Susupe, 2,078; Gualo Rai, 1,660; Afetnas, 1,486; and Chalan Kanoa I, 1,304.

The other Saipan villages with considerable population size are: Chalan Piao, 1,282; China Town, 1,274; Fananganan, 1,201; San Antonio, 1,149; Chalan Laulau, 1,096; Chalan Kiya, 1,062; and Capital Hill, 1,028.

Among the Saipan villages with a population of less than 1,000 each are San Jose/Oleai, 954; Chalan Kanoa II, 921; As Lito, 920; Kagman II, 918; I Liyang, 917; Kannat Tabla, 874; Tanapag, 829; Chalan Kanoa III, 794; Dagu, 780; San Roque, 741; As Palacios, 718; As Rabagau, 677; Chalan Kanoa IV, 631; As Matuis, 596;

Those with a population of less than 500 include Kagman IV, 456; Papago, 380; Kagman I, 358; As Teo, 317; I Akgak, 327; Agingan, 308; As Mahetog, 304; As Terlaje, 282; Navy Hill, 260; Chalan Rueda, 257; As Perdido, 238; Laulau Bay, 226; Tottotville, 258; Achugao, 209; Chalan Galaide, 178; Maturana Hill, 161; As Gonna, 157; Tapochao, 124; and Sadog Tasi, 115.

Saipan villages with a population of less than 100 each are: As Akina, 99; Kagman, 92; Marpi, 85; Chacha, 65; Matansa, 65; I Pitot, 54; Lower Base, 50; Talafofo, 41; Nanasu, 40; I Naftan, 36; Hilaihai, 35; I Denni, 27; Opyan, 20; As Falipe, six;

There are also Saipan villages with zero population, including American Memorial Park, Banaderu, Bird Island, Fanonchuluyan, Forbidden Island, I Fadang, I Maddok, Kalabera, Managaha, Pidos Kahalo, Puerto Rico, Sabaneta, and Tangke.

Census reported in August that of Saipan's five election districts or precincts, Precinct 3 is the most populated with 15,624, followed by Precinct 1 with 15,160, and Precinct 5 with 7,207.

Tinian

Tinian's population decreased by 11.4 percent, from 3,540 in 2000 to 3,136 in 2010.

Of Tinian's eight villages, the most populous is San Jose with 1,939, followed by Marpo Heights with 679, Carolinas Heights with 336, Eastern Tinian with 155, and Carolinas with 27. Aguijan and Northern Tinian each have zero populations.

Rota

Rota saw the biggest drop in terms of percentage. Its population went from 3,283 in 2000 to 2,527 in 2010—a 23-percent decline equivalent to 756 individuals.

Of its 40 villages, almost half or 22 have no residents.

Of the remaining 18 villages, three have a population of one each: Gagani, Gayaugan/Kaan, and Makmak.

Sinapalo is the most populous village on Rota with 1,297 residents, followed by Songsong with 593, Annex F with 154, Tenetu with 147, and Chenchon with 117.

The other populated villages are Liyu, 62; Ginalangan/Chudan, 59; Taimama, 22; Matpo, 17; Tatgua, 17; As Niebes, 12; Gampapa, 12; Lempanai, nine; and Talo, four.

HEALTHCARE

From Page 1

The corporation was appropriated only $5 million seed money this fiscal year. Corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta described this amount as "unrealistic" compared to what DPH used to receive.

"The shortfall started even before the budget law was passed. The $5 million given to the corporation is a far cry from DPH's operating budget of nearly $28 million. The corporation, since Day 1, is already in deficit," Babauta said yesterday.

Last week the corporation submitted to the Legislature a $38.5-million supplemental budget request for fiscal year 2012. This submission was boosted by the corporation's desire to tap the $18 million "identified resources from the hospital" that have was not appropriated by the Legislature in the budget law.

Babauta conceded yesterday that the $38.5 million supplemental budget may not pass the Legislature at this time because of limited government resources.

"Obviously, the Legislature is not going to pass it [$38.5 million]. But that budget is reflective of what it is now. We are going to go through [with the Legislature] on this budget proposal item-by-item to see where we can make the cuts across the board to make it realistic," he said.

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that the corporation's $38.5 million supplemental submission include the following projected costs:

- $24.6 million personnel cost for 599 positions;
- $8.4 million for hospital supplies;
- $775,798 for professional services;
- $345,456 for office expenses;
- $33,600 for rentals;
- $3.8 million for repairs and maintenance and others; and
- $308,000 for travel.

Babauta said the healthcare corporation could lower the $38.5-million budget proposal to $25 million. "The realistic budget is somewhere around $25 million to $26 million and we're going to work on this figure."

There's also a big possibility, he said, that their current workforce of over 600 will be cut after a review of all units and sections at the hospital.

He said the corporation may eliminate or terminate a specific service at CHC to avert incurring huge deficits within the fiscal year.

"We hate to do that, but financially, we cannot carry that burden anymore. We cannot continue to operate in deficit," added Babauta.

MPLT help

Fitial expressed support for the idea of providing a $10 million credit line for the healthcare corporation from the Marianas Public Land Trust. A bill on this effort has been recently filed at the House of Representatives.

The law that established the corporation allows the organization to borrow money, guaranteed by the government.

"We're also asking a letter of credit from MPLT so it will provide short-term requirement to the corporation," said Fitial, adding that the awarding of the Navy Hill property and the MPLT credit line will help the organization address its serious financial concerns.

PROBE

From Page 1

sistance and clarification on the matter.

In an earlier interview with some NAP recipients, many said that they tried to get their checks for December but were denied, pending the submission of new requirements that will prove their legal stay.

A NAP office caseworker confirmed Wednesday that over 100 checks are on hold, pending the submission of a CW receipt or a CW permit by the affected parents.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao had also confirmed that this new requirement is also extended to other DCCA programs.

When asked to further comment on the new requirement, Faisao said in an email: "As stated earlier, the DCCA-NAP welcomes community members to apply for the services provided under the department such as food stamp. However, requirements via established department policy or rules and regulations must be submitted along with the signed application."

Faisao added that if an applicant is found eligible, a determination on benefits will be calculated. In the same statement, he denied that the agency is holding off the benefits due to the lack of a CW permit or receipt. He pointed out that NAP will determine benefit levels based on eligibility and income, not immigration status.

Faisao also cited the government's "austerity measures" for the non-completion of checks processing.

The food stamp program was created to promote the general welfare of CNMI residents and maintain their well-being by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income, zero-income, and needy families and individuals.

According to the program's income guidelines, to be eligible for food stamps, the size of a family's benefit must be based on its income and certain expenses. The poverty level is higher for bigger families and lower for smaller families.

Sword, Fund sued for defective software pension system

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two members of the NMI Retirement Fund are suing Gerhard "Gary" Sword and his company over their alleged defective and non-functioning software pension system project in 2008 that cost the Fund over $400,000.

Joaquin Q. Atalig and Jesus I. Taisague also named as co-defendants in the suit former Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero, the Fund board itself, and 10 unnamed individuals.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to obtain comments from the defendants.

Atalig and Taisague, through counsel Robert H. Myers Jr., sued all the defendants for breach of trust. They also sued Sword and his Express Electronics Ltd. for breach of contract, and unfair business practices. Guerrero, the Fund board, and the 10 unnamed individuals are being sued for alleged negligence.

The plaintiffs are demanding unspecified damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

In the complaint filed on Tuesday, Myers said the lawsuit intends to recover damage caused by the defendants and to put in place protections so that Fund beneficiaries will not be subjected "to such irresponsible expenditure" of funds.

Citing a recent article in the *Marianas Business Journal,* Myers said that Sword didn't fulfill a contract obligation in the Marshall Islands involving a management software system.

Myers said that, according to the article, the Marshall Islands Attorney General's Office accused Sword of "flagrantly breaching the trust reposed on them by the people of Marshall Islands."

Myers said the Fund board knew since 2008 that Express Electronics had breached the pension software contract by providing a defective software yet collecting over $400,000 from the Fund.

Myers said it took the Fund board until December 2010 to finally express disappointment about the non-implementation of the pension software system.

In March 2011, the Fund board gave the Fund management until April 2011 to make a recommendation on the fate of the long-delayed pension software project.

In July 2011, at the request of Sword, the Fund board gave Express Electronics a new 10-day ultimatum to come up with a plan on how to implement the project.

Yet despite several follow-ups from the Fund, Sword still failed to respond, Myers said.

In August 2011, the Fund board decided to file a lawsuit against Express Electronics but then decided to "temporarily hold off" on the suit in November 2011 due to the caseload of its attorneys.

Myers said that Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar publicly made an excuse that the decision to file a lawsuit against Sword will be executed soon after the Fund lawyers' have more time to do it.

"One of the best-kept secrets at the Retirement Fund is that, in order to run Sword's pension software program, the Fund needs a computer server," he said.

Myers said that Guerrero caused to be procured from his brother-in-law's company a huge computer server that was supposed to run the pension software program.

Express Electronics was awarded the $449,800 contract in 2008 to deliver a "pension software program" by 2009. Sword and then Fund board chair Guerrero signed the contract in April 2008.

Myers said the contract was awarded to Express Electronics despite the fact that other bidders submitted a lower bid and are more qualified/responsive.

"Inexcusably, however, the Retirement Fund has already paid Sword and/or Express Electronics over $402,000 for a defective pension software program that, to date, is still inoperable," the lawyer said.

To add more insult to injury, Myers said, the board spent over $9,000 to hire R&R Associates to evaluate the entire project and seek recommendation whether there is a need to keep the project or scrap it entirely. Myers said one of the principal owners of R&R Associates happens to be the brother-in-law of the current Fund administrator.

He said R&R Associates identified two serious deficiencies in the defective software.

"Despite the fact that the board had to withdraw principal to pay retirement benefits between Sept. 19, 2008, and December 2011, the Retirement Fund is not serious about going after the other defendants who have clearly injured the Retirement Fund," Myers said.

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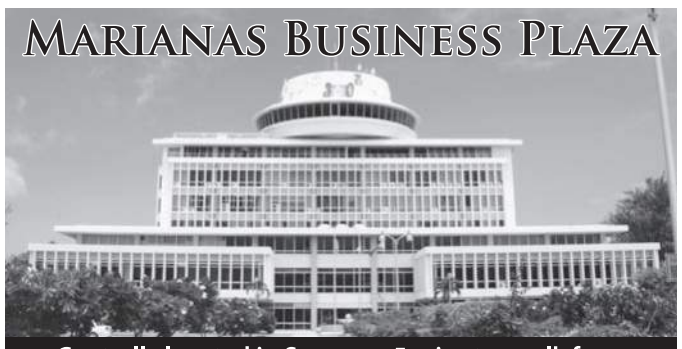
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Nothing recovered from $6.2M in misspent taxpayers' money—again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In another six-month period, government agencies including the Office of the Attorney General failed to recover a single cent out of $6.2 million in taxpayers' money that were misspent, overpaid to professional service contractors or unpaid land leases dating as far back as 1995.

The OAG, for example, has yet to recover $392,178 from former members of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission for their outstanding travel advances in 2002. The Department of Labor has yet to collect from two companies $512,410 in nonresident worker application fees in 2005.

Public Auditor Michael Pai, in a Jan. 3 report on CNMI agencies' implementation of audit recommendations as of June 30, 2011, also said that the number of recommendations without corrective actions increased by six or 19 percent—from 26 in 2010 to 31 in mid-2011.

During the first six months of 2011, OPA tracked 40 audit recommendations.

Of the 40 audit recommendations, four were closed and 36 remained either opened or resolved.

This meant that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Northern Marianas College, and the NMI Retirement Fund have either implemented or have taken alternative actions to address OPA's recommendations.

Pai

Of the 36 open or resolved recommendations, 31 were considered delinquent.

Of the 31 delinquent recommendations, 13 were supposed to be corrected or acted on by OAG, 10 by the Department of Finance, four by the Department of Public Lands, two by the Department of Public Safety, and one each by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and NMC.

As of June 30, 2011, audit recommendations in seven audit reports were referred to OAG for legal action to recover monies improperly expended.

In these seven audit reports, some $2.6 million is potentially recoverable but the OAG did not provide OPA an update on these referral cases during OPA's follow-up process. Therefore, the status of these referrals remains unchanged.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) has been calling on OAG, as well as OPA, to be more aggressive in recovering money. Dela Cruz said it's about time the CNMI has an elected attorney general rather than an appointed one.

OPA also identified potential recoveries of some $3.6 million in eight audit reports addressed to various agencies. From Jan. 1, 2011, to June 30, 2011, OPA did not receive updates from DPL. The Fund also informed OPA that the status of recovery of funds will be provided to OPA once their review is completed.

OPA also included 122 recommendations from 10 recent audit reports that private accounting firms recently issued.

NMI's first coordinator for higher education visits NMC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth's first ever coordinator for higher education, Kit Van Meter, paid a visit to the Northern Marianas College on Tuesday—29 years after she left the institution.

Meter, who played an important role in the creation of the college, was designated in March 1978 as the first coordinator for higher education, less than a year after NMC was founded in August 1976 through a proclamation.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Van Meter said she is overwhelmed by the amount of growth she has seen at the college.

"I had a wonderful day! It's been a long time since I've been back…and I am overwhelmed to see all the growth at NMC," she said.

Van Meter said she was overjoyed to learn that, from just nine employees during the maiden years of the community college, NMC now has about 130 staff and personnel.

She toured the college's cafeteria, bookstore, student center, and various laboratories on campus. "We didn't have those things at all. It was quite exciting and a bit overwhelming," she said.

Van Meter was welcomed by faculty, staff, and some guests, including former NMC presidents Jack Sablan and Agnes McPhetres. A special reception was accorded her throughout the almost four-hour tour of the campus Tuesday.

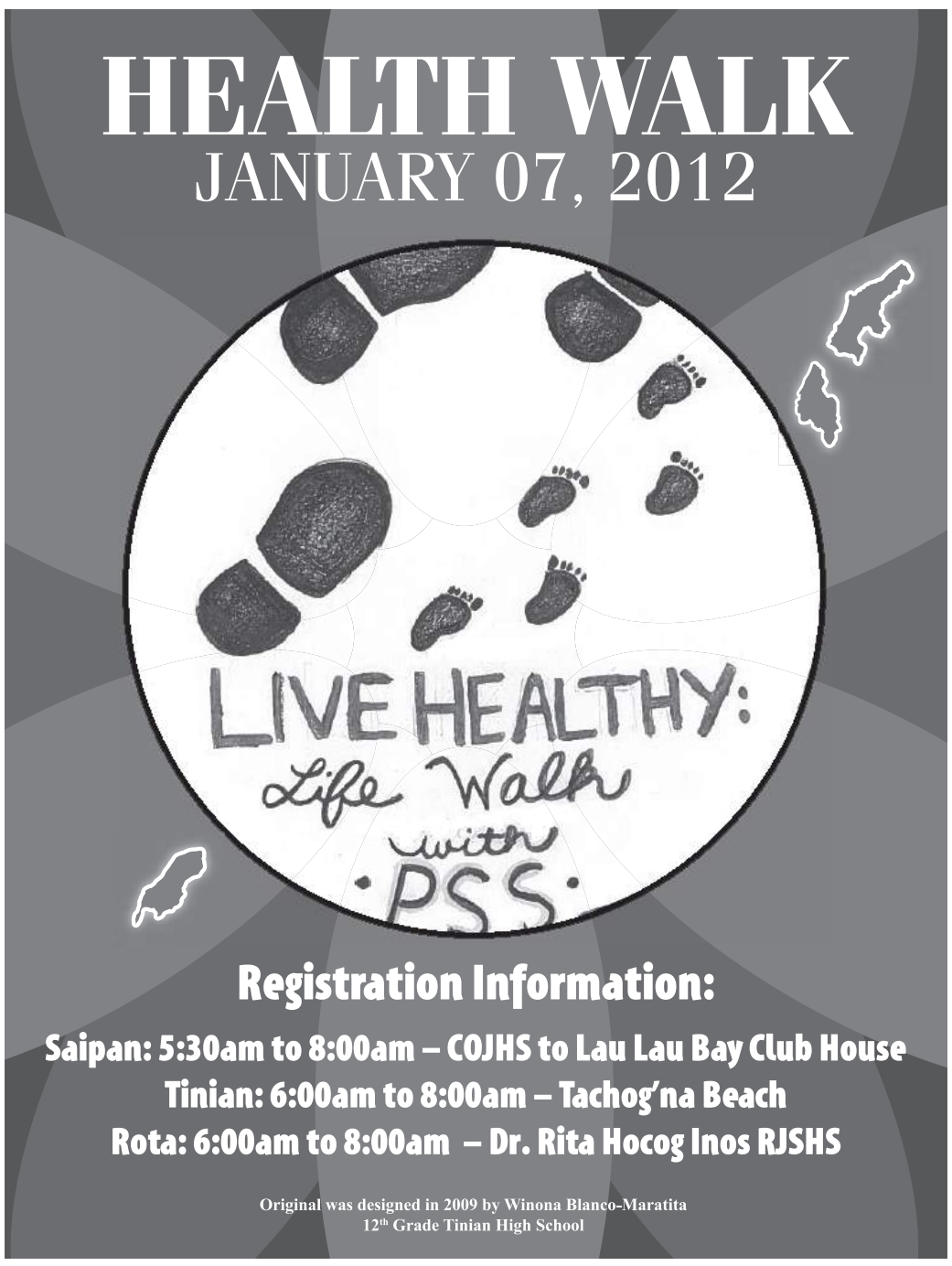
Saipan Tribune learned that Van Meter is on island for a friend's wedding and her daughter took the opportunity to contact college officials to give her mother a tour of the campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kit Van Meter (formerly Porter), left, presents her collection of photos and other memorabilia from the Northern Marianas College's early days to current and retired NMC staff and faculty.

Now semi-retired and doing consultancy work, Van Meter last visited the island in 1983. She lived on Rota from 1967 to 1969 and worked for the Public School System's bilingual program in 1975.

Van Meter said that NMC, by virtue of an executive order, was established in March 1981, offering limited courses and services. It was in January 1983, however, by virtue of a bill that NMC was formally established and earned the institution its candidacy to the accreditation commission.

NMC saw its first group of graduates in August 1982, with 17 associate degree holders and eight with bachelor's degrees from the University of Guam where NMC had a partnership then.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Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

STATEMENT OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES
(FY 2012)

GOAL 1: To ensure that individuals with disabilities in institutional and/or community settings (1) are not subject to *abuse/neglect*, (2) are *free from discrimination*, (3) are provided with an a*ppropriate education*, (4) are provided appropriate *health care services*, and (5) are provided with opportunities to make *informed decisions* about their lives as *independent, contributing members of the community.*

Priority 1.1: In fiscal year 2012, P&A personnel will provide direct representation for program eligible persons with disabilities by conducting intervention strategies of reported cases of abuse and/or neglect to include, but not be limited to, short-term assistance, investigations, technical assistance, administrative remedies, negotiation /mediation, and/or legal remedies;

Priority 1.2: In fiscal year 2012, P&A personnel *will collaborate with other programs, agencies and/or people in the community to* deliver and ensure protection and advocacy services to unserved and underserved individuals with disabilities in the CNMI.

Priority 1.3: In fiscal year 2012, P&A personnel *will collaborate with other programs, agencies and/or people in the community to* conduct and/or facilitate trainings related to the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities, to people with disabilities, their families and/or other members of the community;

Priority 1.4: In fiscal year 2012, P&A personnel *will collaborate with other programs, agencies and/or people in the community to* disseminate information relating to the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities to the community at large to include but not limited to using local media and/or other mediums for information dissemination;

Priority 1.5: In fiscal year 2012, P&A personnel will provide Information & Referral and/or Technical Assistance to interested individuals about issues relating to the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities in institutional and/or community settings; and

Priority 1.6: In fiscal year 2012, P&A personnel will receive training and education in order to *increase and improve the quality* of protection and advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities in the CNMI.

NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the **U.S. Department of Education (DOE)**/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the **Social Security Administration (SSA).**

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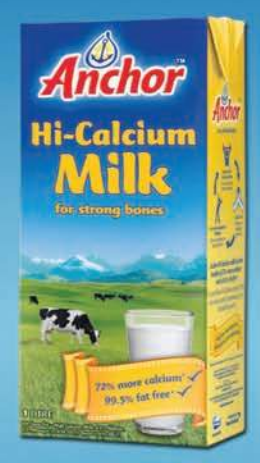

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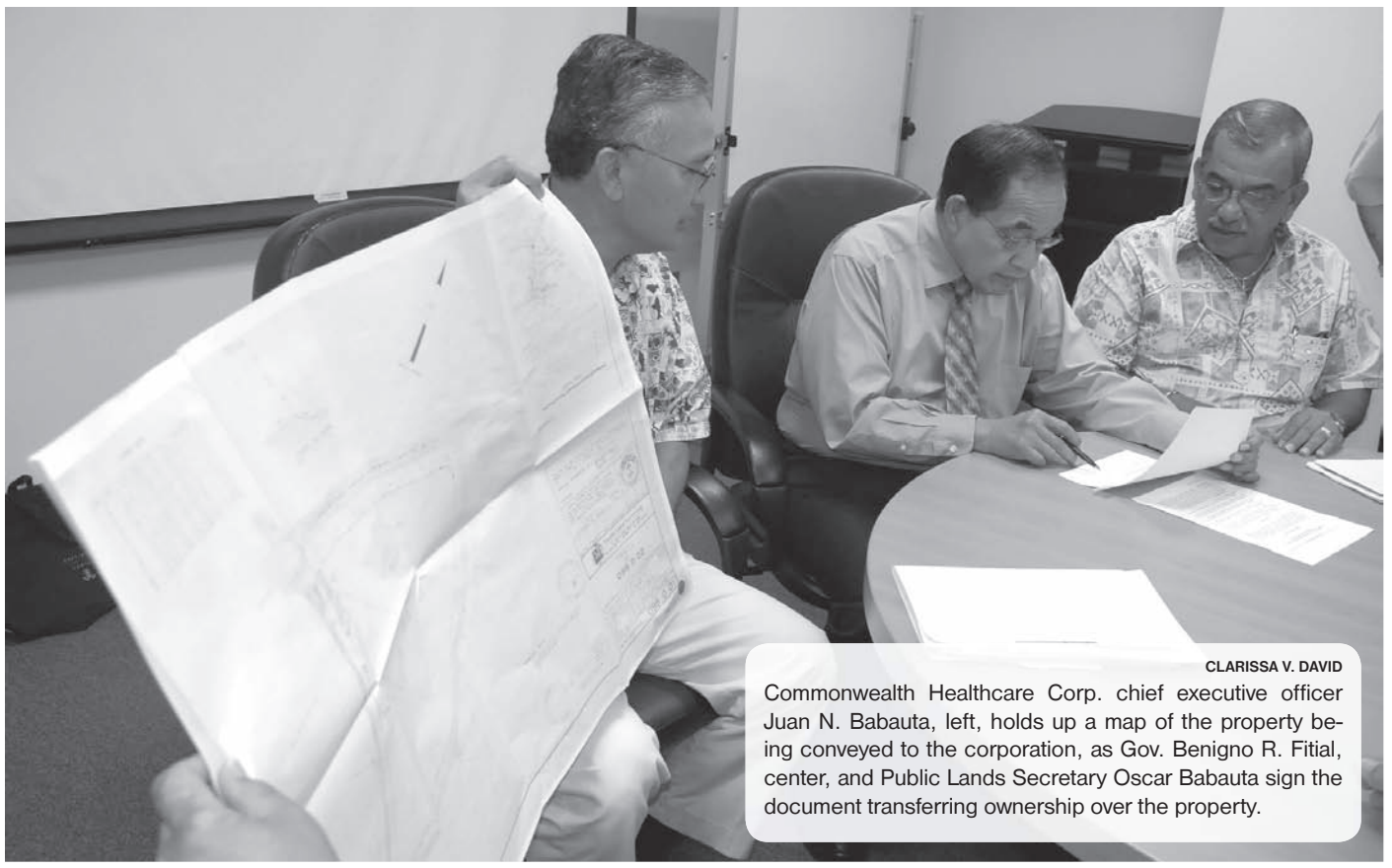

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, left, holds up a map of the property being conveyed to the corporation, as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, and Public Lands Secretary Oscar Babauta sign the document transferring ownership over the property.

Property seen to help CHC's sustainability

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, along with Department of Public Lands officials and lawmakers, formally turned over to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. a 38,500-square meter property that the organization hopes will generate additional revenue for the Commonwealth Health Center.

Fitial hopes that a commercial building that will be directly connected to the CHC could be built on the property or an investor that could lease the area from the corporation.

The lot is adjacent to the hospital and is composed of two parcels of land: one is 30,000 square meters and the other is 8,500 square meters behind it.

Fitial cited the current financial situation of the healthcare corporation as the main reason for awarding the property.

"I know this will not really help the corporation's financial situation immediately or in the short term, but I am sure it will greatly help in the long term," he said.

Fitial also pointed that, if the corporation chooses to build a commercial building on the site, an overpass could be built that would connect the potential building to the hospital.

Fitial cited as example the facility he had seen and experienced in Stanford Hospital, which is directly connected to a commercial building that people have easy access to. The commercial building could house doctors' clinics, restaurants, and other amenities.

"That's the kind of concept that I would like to see here," he said.

Fitial and Public Lands Secretary Oscar Babauta affixed their signatures on the documents that were notarized before them.

The corporation's CEO, Juan N. Babauta, lauded the governor's support and disclosed that he had written the governor on Nov. 16, 2011, to ask for the designation of the property.

"The goal of this corporation is to provide the best patient care. In order to provide this, we have to have some money to go along with that. We're working toward our goal to become financially self-sufficient," he said.

Awarding of title constitutional

DPL Secretary Babauta said that the awarding of the land title to the corporation is legal pursuant to the mandates of the Constitution's Section 5(b).

"I strongly believe that the awarding of this land title is a public need for this particular obligation," he said.

He lauded the administration's efforts to strengthen the Department of Public Health and make it an independent corporation.

Secretary Babauta could not immediately give an estimate yesterday on the value of the property.

CEO Babauta is confident that the site will not have any issues with the Zoning Office in terms of the property's future developments.

According to him, the law permits the corporation to engage in entrepreneurial approaches to generate revenue. In addition, the corporation could also borrow money and acquire real property to enhance its financial stability.

Among the attendees in yesterday's ceremony were House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), House Health and Education Welfare Committee chair Silvestre Iguel (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Fredrick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), DPL director Ray Salas and his staff, members of the Healthcare Corporation board, management team members, and hospital staff.

Red Cross helps reconnect loved ones separated by wars, disasters

The American Red Cross—NMI Chapter provides through its extensive network a service that helps community members reconnect with their loved ones who are separated from them due to wars and natural disasters.

Restoring Family Links helps families locate missing loved ones through Red Cross partners, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Red Crescent organizations throughout the world.

The program also provides services that reconnect Holocaust survivors and their families.

NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh said that individuals who are requesting for this assistance are asked to fill out the Disaster Tracing Inquiry form, which contains pertinent information about the person to be traced and the requestor.

Hirsh noted that there are areas where this service is not accessible since they do not have the capacity to do so.

"This is a lot of hard work to be looking for people. You need to have a lot of boots on the ground, you have to have a lot of people, and a lot of infrastructure. Only the bigger Red Cross societies around the world can do this kind of thing, particularly during disasters," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hirsh said providing this service has become easier given the improvements in technology through the years.

For more information about Restoring Family Links, go to www.redcross.org/international or call the NMI-chapter at 234-3459. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Samoa admits to playing China, Taiwan against each other

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI)—Samoa's prime minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi has revealed that Samoa invited both China and Taiwan at the same time to establish diplomatic relations and then waited to see which country was first to take the opportunity.

Tuilaepa has told the Samoa Observer newspaper when other countries were looking down on China, Samoa's then Prime Minister Tupua Tamasese Lealofi invited the Chinese to build an embassy in Apia.

The PM says China was the first to react and opened an embassy in Vailima while Taiwan never bothered.

Tuilaepa said China can never forget how Samoa helped at the time, and that it is why it will always help, such as in 2005, when it forgave a multi-million dollar debt.

According to Tuilaepa, Samoa is asking China for help to construct buildings and for sports because other donors cannot fund these things which are not in their line of grants.

Asked about the U.S. role in the region, Tuilaepa answered that the U.S. president can say whatever he wants but the reality is that the U.S. cannot match what China is doing to help the Pacific.

China and Samoa have enjoyed increased political and economic interactions over the last year, with a number of official visits of Chinese delegations to the island nation. China offered approximately US$6.1 million in aid money along with a Memorandum of Understanding in April. Chinese delegates said, echoing their government's position, that the aid came "no strings attached" for development purposes and to strengthen bilateral relationships between the two nations.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 6, 1999

Garment firms appeal labor cap
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday he will look into the request of garment manufacturers seeking exemption from a proposed legislation that will put a cap on the number of foreign workers that can be employed in the garment industry. The governor yesterday met with garment representatives who appealed to spare manufacturers from the measure since some members of the industry have already paid for fees that go along with the hiring of workers since last year. According to Tenorio, apparel makers are seeking to ease the restriction in fear that they would not be able to reimburse fees they paid for application and permits pending in the Department of Labor and Immigration once the law in put in place.

Spending-cut measures get backing
A resolution set to be filed at the House of Representatives will press administration officials to strictly implement a package of austerity measures proposed by the Office of the Public Auditor in light of shrinking government revenues. Rep. Melvin Faisao yesterday vowed to pursue the initiative to compel various departments and agencies to reduce their spending amid deepening financial crisis besetting the cash-strapped NMI government. The move followed a recommendation from Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte sought earlier by the representative, identifying more than $23 million in unessential appropriations under the FY 1999 budget package.

Jan. 6, 2000

Lack of funds snags street-naming project—Heinz
Unavailability of funds amounting to $800,000 to $1 million, and not disagreement on proposals, is holding up construction of signposts and nameplates for the much-delayed Saipan street-naming project. But Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, chair of the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation, said recommendations on the names of the streets will be taken up in the next Legislature in an amendment to the local law signed last year by the governor. . "[The project] needs about $800,000 to $1 million to procure all signposts and signage. That's holding it up. We need to work together with the Governor's Office and the Mayor's office to start procuring those nameplates," he told reporters yesterday.

Jr. Larry Hillbroom's lawyers face contempt charge
Federal Court Judge Alex Munson yesterday ordered five lawyers and their clients, Junior Larry Hillbroom and his guardian Naoko Imeong, to appear in court next month to justify why they should not be held in contempt for violation of earlier orders. Attorneys David J. Lujan, Barry J. Israel, Kevin P.H. Sumida, counsels for the two, and Thomas Tarpley, of the Junior Larry Hillbroom Trust, could face disqualification or suspension from the civil complaint filed by James E. Hollman. If found guilty of contempt of court, they could also be compelled to compensate the plaintiff for losses sustained due to the conduct of the defendants as well as attorney's fees and expenses. It could also weaken their defense against the case alleging bad faith litigation.

Jan. 6, 2003

Employer, workers, penalized for violating labor laws
The Department of Labor and Immigration has fined and banned an employer from hiring nonresident workers for three years following findings that she and four of her nonresidents workers engaged in an illegal business transaction three years ago. DOLI hearing officer Vincent Kaipat said in a recent administrative order that employer Mercelita L. Maglalang of defunct Taurus Auto Repair Shop, did not only employ workers but also made them her business partners. Seman said documents showed that Maglalang conspired with the four to reopen the auto repair shop in January 1999.

Online university sets sights on Saipan
The University of Phoenix will be coming to Saipan next month to explain how people can earn their bachelor's or master's degree without leaving work or the comforts of their home. The University of Phoenix said it will be holding an information meeting on February 5 and 6 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Saipan, from 6pm to 10pm, to answer all questions that people may have about earning a high-quality degree online, in the most efficient way possible.

Man gets 3 years for robbing poker

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

George Jones Castro, who is accused of robbing Capitol Poker in Sadog Tasi last year, pleaded guilty on Wednesday and was sentenced to three years in prison.

The 43-year-old Castro pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon as part of a plea agreement. The Office of the Attorney General agreed to drop the remaining charges of robbery, theft, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Castro to 10 years in prison, all suspended except for three years, with credit for the 123 days he has already spent in jail.

After completing his sentence, Castro will be placed on probation for 10 years and required to perform 100 hours of community service. He was also ordered to pay a $1,000 fine, $60 probation service fee, and $25 court assessment fee.

Castro was ordered to pay Young Xu Chui restitution for the $2,000 that was stolen, as well as the damage to the cord and computers that happened during the robbery.

Castro had threatened Chui with a knife during the armed robbery that took place on Aug. 29, 2011 on Saipan. He also tied up the 56-year-old cashier before fleeing with $2,000 in cash.

Saipan Tribune broke the news about the robbery.

The police's release of video footage of the robbery to KSPN2 led to the identification and subsequent arrest of Castro last Sept. 4.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that police released on Sept. 2, 2011, to KSPN2 the footage of the surveillance camera in hopes of identifying the suspect. Two days later, Pangelinan and detective Jonathan Decena interviewed Castro's sister at her home in Tanapag.

Pangelinan said the sister admitted seeing KSPN2's footage and recognizing the suspect as her brother, Castro. The sister believed that the knife used in the robbery was hers because after Castro left their house in Tanapag during the morning of Aug. 29, she realized that one of her two long kitchen knives was missing.

Pangelinan said that Castro confessed to the crime, saying he got the knife from his sister's house. He told police he got close to $2,000 from Capitol Poker and that he spent all that money playing poker at Sky Poker along Airport Road.

Castro also led the investigators to a store in Puerto Rico where he hid the knife in a small flower garden in front of the establishment.

NMC spring registration begins Jan. 10

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's spring 2012 semester will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 10 and run through Friday, Jan. 13, 2012. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during this week. Late registration is from Jan. 17 to 20, 2012.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can obtain the required slip from the English department and meet with their academic advisers. NMC academic advisers will help new students fill in registration forms and create class schedules. Students can then finish the registration process in NMC's Room D-1.

Application for admissions will still be accepted until the last day of late registration on Friday, Jan. 20, 2012, provided that both placement tests have been taken. Students may register between 9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week, and between 8am and 5pm during the week of late registration.

Ongoing students must clear any outstanding balances at the Finance Office, the NMC Library, and/or Office of Admissions and Records before they can register for classes. To find out if any balances exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1537.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the spring 2012 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1537, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

SPRING 2012 IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan. 6: Student Orientation for International Students
  - § Session 1: 9:30am-12pm at the NMC Student Center (Building J)
  - § Session 2: 1:30pm-4pm at the NMC Student Center (Building J)
- Jan. 9: Early Registration for 2012 graduation candidates and School of Education Seniors
- Jan. 10: Regular Registration for students with *PowerCampus ID #000000100-000010900*
- Jan. 11: Regular Registration for students with *PowerCampus ID #000010901-000014010*
- Jan. 12: Regular Registration for students with *PowerCampus ID #000014011-000015820*
- Jan. 12: Student Orientation for New and Returning Students
  - § Session 1: 9am-12pm at the NMC Library (Building O)
  - § Session 2: 4pm-7pm at the NMC Library (Building O)
- Jan. 13: Regular Registration for Students with *PowerCampus ID #000015821 and higher / New students*
- Jan. 16: HOLIDAY- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 17: First Day of Spring Classes
- Jan. 17-20: Late Registration Week

ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

- Jan. 6: 9am - 2pm, English Lab (Building M)
- Jan. 9: 9am - 4pm, English Lab (Building M)
- Jan. 10: 9am - 6pm, English Lab (Building M)
- Jan. 11: 9am - 6pm, English Lab (Building M)
- Jan. 12: 9am - 4pm, English Lab (Building M)
- Jan. 13: 9am - 2pm, English Lab (Building M)

MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

- Jan. 10: 10am - 12pm, Room A-9
- Jan. 12: 10am - 12pm, Room A-9 5pm - 7pm, Room A-9

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Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, vs. **DAVID O. SABLAN and BERNADITA M. SABLAN,** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 03-0365B** **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants David O. Sablan and Bernadita M. Sablan in the following described, real property situated in San Antonio, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 004 I 05 (formerly Block 3, Lot 5), containing an area of 479 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 004 I 00, the original of which was registered March 1, 1971, as Document No. 715 at Land Registry, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, January 20, 2012, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card[1]. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of David O. Sablan and Bernadita M. Sablan in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 2nd day of November 2011.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

[1] MasterCard and VISA only: a 2% processing fee will be charged on credit card payment(s).

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 6

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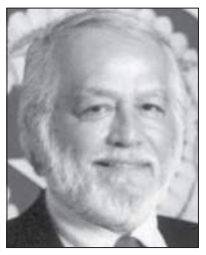
MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

A new year, new choices, new directions, action needed

By STANLEY TUDELA MCGINNIS TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stanley T. McGinnis Torres is a member of the House of Representatives of the 17th CNMI Legislature.



The Second Marianas Political and Economic Status Commission is ready to begin work as soon as our senators pass the enacting legislation. HB 17-07 has passed the House and awaits their action to begin the important process of examining alternatives and making recommendations for our vote regarding the future of our islands and our people. Several have confirmed their willingness to proceed.

I can think of no more important action that we can take than to carefully plan our future and set strategies for attaining those goals. At the very heart of that strategy lies our political and economic relationship with the rest of the world. It is not just time, but past time, that we reexamine our current attachments and determine if we are on the right track, or if there are other ways of better interacting with our neighbors, allies, and friends in the international community.

Just as a personal life that remains unexamined is unlikely to succeed, so too is a nation's existence in need of periodic re-examination to be able to do the best for its citizens. 2012 is the time for the Northern Marianas Islands to examine these alternatives and decide on a future course of action most likely to improve our lot in life.

The commission is organized to have a complete system of checks and balances, is set up to be both transparent and responsive to public input, is cheap to operate and arguably provides the most important product a government can deliver: a strategy for the nation's people and a way to attain their goals of self-government and economic prosperity.

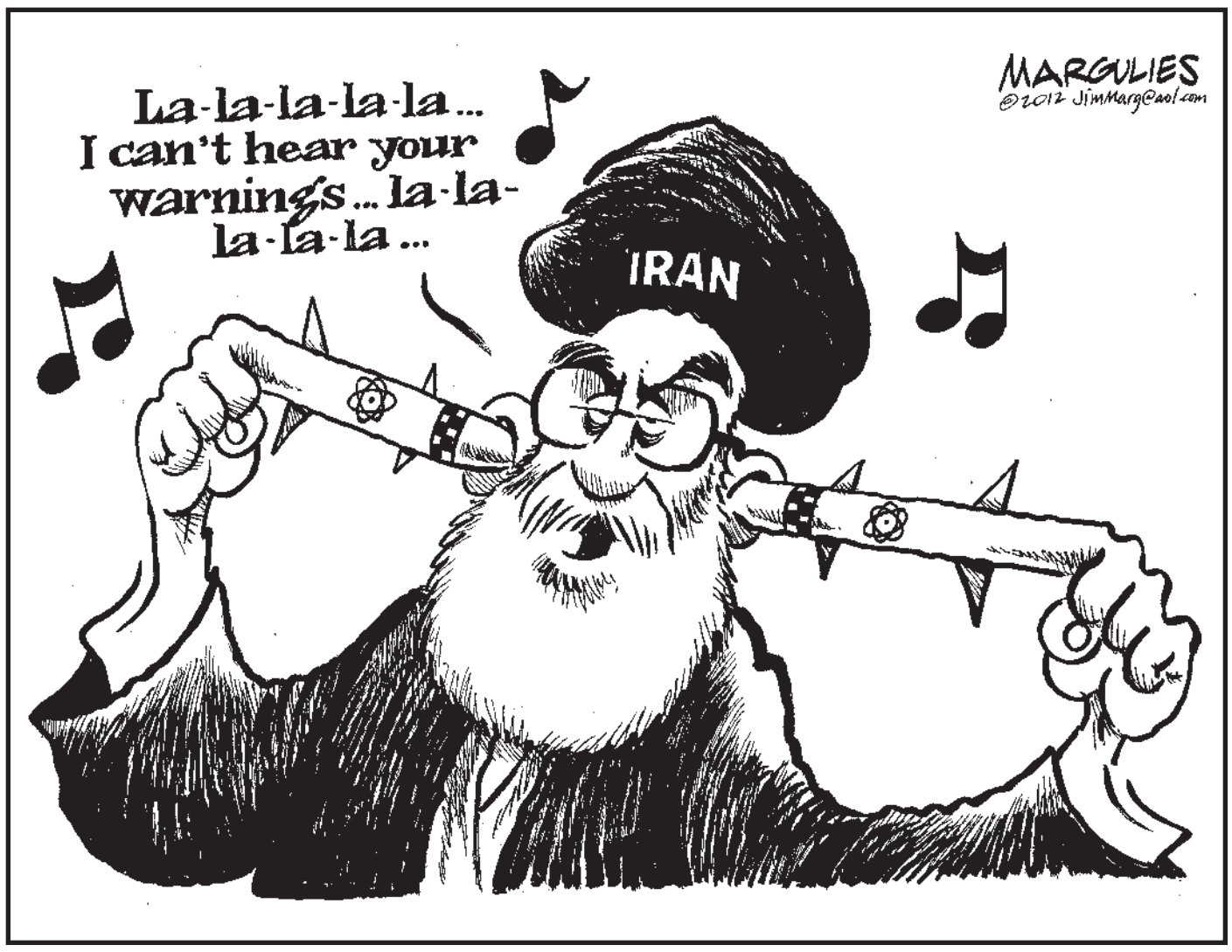
I call on you to personally contact your three senators and ask them to bring this legislation to the floor for a vote and to support it with their own positive vote when it gets there so the commission can get started with the important work at hand.

■ Rota: Sen. Paul A. Manglona 664-8807 or sen.manglona@gmail.com; Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu 664-8812 or sen.ayuyu@cnmileg.gov.mp; Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao 664-8858 or sen.taimanao@cnmileg.gov.mp

■ Tinian: Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider 664-8803 or senatorjuhofschneider@yahoo.com; Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz 664-8922 or senatorfqcruz@hotmail.com; Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas 664-8814 or senatorchandia@yahoo.com

■ Saipan: Sen. Pete P. Reyes 664-8868 or sen.reyesp@cnmileg.gov.mp; Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo 664-8967 or sen.luispcrisostimo.nmileg@gmail.com; Sen. Ralph DLG. Torres 664-8874 or senatorrtorres@gmail.com

I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year! Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments about this week's article at 664-8903 or rep.torress@cnmileg.gov.mp.



The American Pacific Century

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Shortly after Obama was elected President, he announced that the United States is a Pacific nation. We thought he was just playing to his home island crowd. Three years later, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton articulated at the APEC conference our entry into the American Pacific Century. The new element is the American flavor to a process that we already knew was occurring three decades ago when we moved body and soul to the Pacific.

The dawn of the Pacific Century began with the miracle of Japan, Inc. in the '80s, buoyed by its *zaibatsu's* proximity to the Korea and Vietnam conflicts; followed by the industrializing tigers of Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore, then China, Inc. WTO globalization in 2000s. Dramatic events occurred in that period, a stark example being Japan's begging the Bank of California in 1960 for loans, and by 1985, saving the bank from bankruptcy.

Reagan's surreptitious "devaluation" of the dollar through currency adjustment abetted Japan's global market ascendancy. Suddenly, the ¥en dramatically increased its value that could not be absorbed domestically so places like Hawaii and the Pacific, among real estate operators, were derisively known as the new prefectures of Japan. The ¥en also began funding the industrialization of the Far East and Southeast Asia. There was a time when nine of the top 10 world banks by size were Japanese before we conglomerated into "too big to fail" financial houses.

It was the sudden wealth from real estate that would leave a lasting after tremor around the world as the financial markets went into high investments in construction and housing development. We have since learned that wealth derived from financial processes often are simply speculative paper wealth, and here lies the allure and illusion of what has since been known as phantom wealth.

The American dollar is in decline as the global currency of exchange, in commerce and industry, but the trade in oil denominated in this currency remains to our advantage. Let's follow two strains that proceed from this reality.

First, in the recent U.S. budget cutting debate, the question of government subsidies on American oil concerns came to the fore. To ensure constant oil supply, federal and state governments extend direct and indirect subsidies to oil firms. Records reveal that the U.S. is a now a net exporter of gasoline, this being so because the value of the commodity is determined by market demand, and oil products command higher price elsewhere than the U.S. domestic market.

The subsidized oil companies earn also from Myanmar that just skyrocketed its petrol pump prices on New Year's; the high cost of gasoline in the Marianas is determined by short supply because the oil company is selling their reserves at higher profit to developing nations that wants and needs them. Our colleague Ed Stephens could explain this better than I can, but having declared that his money is still with oil company stocks, he may not want to! Corporate welfare is alive and well in the US of A, and oil companies also reap extra quarters from the Chamorros and the needy Myanmarese.

Second, when President Obama echoes Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's saber rattling routine of U.S. military presence in the Pacific, this is not all pride, pomp, and face powder puffs. There'$ dollar$ in them Pacific water$. There is a huge oil deposit under the South China Sea that our oil companies want without having to calligraphy their names in Zhongguo contracts. Three claimants recently got U.S. military assistance, at their cost, to strengthen their claim rights. Taiwan got her F-16s refurbished and the Philippines' PNoy2 got a Coast Guard cutter; it also has Hillary Clinton calling the waters around Spratlys (aka *Nansha*) the West Philippine Sea.

But the third claimant, *Negara Brunei Darusallam*, already an oil company enclave in Malaysia, not unlike Kuwait to Iraq, had the Sandhurst-educated Sultan Bolkiah ink a jet purchase worth $325 million at the Democracy Forum in Bali with Obama. Given the Sultan's refined taste and preference for Rolls Royce, (keeping them faithfully and caring for them better than his wives, a wit adds) this should not come as a surprise. Having almost trained to fly the F-4s, a sleek jet line impresses many a stiletto wearing *Malayu Islam Mata Hari*. The Sultanate population numbers 400 thousand heads, so the jet purchase alone is going to cost Brunei $812,500 per citizen. What is self-appointed Prime Minister and President Hassanal Bolkiah thinking? Can Occupy be activated in Bendar Seri Begawan? Not likely. The Sultan owns everything, and he is loved by everyone!?!

Yes, there is oil on the continental shelf from the Sea of Japan down to the South China Sea, but we'll let our trading partners in Beijing burn their coal rather than oil because we can get the rest of the world to complain about their dirty air and carbon emissions, throw a wrench into their industrialization, never mind that this Axis of Evil holds trillions of Treasury bills.

There is nothing in this narration that is confidential or privilege. It's right out on the front page of newspapers, and when our government announces that we are going to pursue an American Pacific Century, do we bother to ask what that means? I did.

Talk to me.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Factor Number Four

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

From what I've seen, one very popular resolution for the New Year is to study a foreign language.

Well, happy timing, that. It's a good mesh with "Factor No. 4," an observation I wanted to make last week. But I ran out of ink back then, having soaked up all my space yakking about three other factors I see as defining the CNMI's situation for 2012. Anyway, Factor No. 4, which applies to the mainland as well as Saipan, is the parade of people aiming for Asia to seek greener pastures. I get a lot of e-mail about this.

Meanwhile, one of my young nephews has decided that he wants to complete engineering college in the Philippines and then work in Japan. So he's got Japanese studies on the menu.

And, also meanwhile, I know an investment pro who's contemplating a move to Asia to pursue some financial projects, so he's studying Chinese now.

And I just got a phone call from an old friend in the mainland who has a small business. Actually, he's not moving to Asia. He doesn't have to. That's because Asia has moved to him. Most of his customers speak Chinese, and we're talking an upper-echelon enclave, where parking lots look like BMW show rooms, where if you water the curb an S-class Mercedes will sprout up, and where every other storefront is an SAT preparation center. So my friend told me his project for the New Year: He's enrolling in the nearby community college to belly up for a Chinese course. No, he doesn't have to do that, but he figures it will help him build his rapport with customers.

Digging back into Saipan's case, it still offers some inroads into Asia's business circles. Still, it's not a golden perch like it was in the 1990s, back when anyone remotely coherent could live the island life, earn a decent living, and then steer for Asia once they fell into the right sort of professional circles. If someone couldn't make friends here, it's safe to say they couldn't make them anywhere.

Anyway, for those steering for Asian pastures, there's a lot of buzz about "older" folks trying to come to terms with learning an Asian language. These discussions seem to center on the Chinese language these days.

So, what of it? Can mid-career professionals, and various and sundry other "mature" types, make any progress in Chinese or some-such other exotic tongue? From what I've seen, we fare no better or worse than anyone else does.

It's a fitting theme for this year to mention why I started studying Chinese in the first place. Two situations fired up my inspiration. In the first case, I was working in Taiwan, and as a newbie I went to a small, "hole in the wall" noodle shop for lunch. I couldn't read a doggone thing on the menu, which was a series of boards on the wall. It was one of those long days where nothing was going right, and I realized that being utterly illiterate in the language of the realm was just going to make my long days even longer.

As for the second case, it found me doing business in mainland China. I was pretty much squandering a good chunk of my savings as I pursued a manufacturing and importing project. And in China I was, of course, also illiterate, and I felt cut off from the flow of normal life. Sure, I could, and I did, impose on people to help me out, but I started to feel pretty bad about constantly imposing, and possibly feeling worse because my cash was bleeding away.

So, after all that, I started studying Chinese. Not because I really had to. I didn't have to. Not because anyone told me to. There's nobody to tell me such things. Not because there is an immediate benefit for me. There is no such benefit.

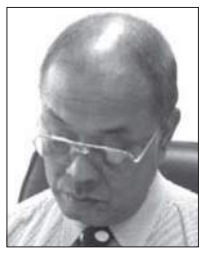
Well, lo these years later, including a few semesters peppered within, what do I have to show for it? I don't really know. I just dabble in my studies now, pretty much just adrift, not making much progress, but any progress is better than none. So my only goal is to keep engaged with it. My reading and writing are better than my speaking, but that's a comparative gig and I'm not impressive on any count. If I feel energized enough for another semester, I might go that route. Or maybe I won't. I don't know.

Well, I'm in good company. Many folks on Saipan, if not on the same boat, are at least going to be boarding it this year. So, welcome aboard, mate. I think this is one realm where we might as well enjoy the journey, since the destination can seem so very far away.

Clarification on land and culture

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former Public Lands secretary.*



Someone refuted as wrong the assertion I had on land losing its historical traditional relationship with the local culture. Obviously, this was misunderstood and reinterpreted to suit the racially biased agenda that scaffolds hollow arguments on a discriminatory constitutional provision, namely Article 12.

If I may try again: Upon these islands was founded an agrarian community or farming as a "way of life" by our ancestors. It became a cultural tradition—farming the land for sustenance—since five centuries ago. We slowly moved away from it when we started working for the naval administration after the war and subsequently the TTG and now the NMIG. It set up the stage to slowly abandon traditional farming as a way of life. True or false?

We moved away from an agrarian way of life. So the tradition of farming founded upon our land gradually disappeared through the years. We need not belabor the point. Just ask yourself how many of our people are still farming fulltime? So we've lost the traditional use of land. Didn't we morph into a money economy? Didn't this change turn most family land into assets or commodity today? This was the material historical shift in point of my explanation, nothing else. How do you refute an historical material fact?

How interesting the point that land still remains the place of gathering and unity of families here. No qualms up that alley. It's still true for most families with ranches or farms. I still farm the family place in As Perdido, having been raised among tall sweet corn, taro, tapioca, bananas, and sweet potatoes. Its traditional genesis hailed from our ancestors that once farmed these isles.

But family land has also become the very source of vicious family feuds, lawsuits, and disunity. The Superior Court is inundated with dockets or litigation on family feud we've never seen on television. I still hear siblings mouthing off against each other for disagreement over division of family land or equitable distribution of wealth resulting from it. The fight goes on as share for family members decrease and funneled into legal fees. There's also the failure to distribute the shares of heirs that is still in court for resolution. This is how much we value land here!

Finally, if we aren't ready to embrace the moral obligation inherent in "We the people" of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, then we must be two-headed hypocrites who have failed to understand our humanity. How humiliating our agility to receive U.S. taxpayers' money, yet we instantly boast off fragility against assimilation and justice for fellow citizens. Is this right when viewed against Christianity in the islands that has been around for centuries? Didn't we develop a sense of justice and what's right? We have a lot of growing up to do, don't we?

■■■

Crash of local economy

The crash of the local economy was the result of three phenomena: 1). Global recession that took the wind out of the economies of scale we've relied upon for sustenance in tourism. 2). Loss of competitive edge derailed by the World Trade Organization lifting export quotas for garment products from China and other competing Asian countries. 3). The imposition of federal control of immigration and federal minimum wage. The combined negative effects have made investing on the islands "unprofitable."

The issue though isn't so much the drain of investments as much as what we've failed to do to mitigate the impending tsunami of foreign capital rushing out of our floodgates. Leadership decided to place their fiduciary obligation on automatic pilot and took a long snooze while our economic rooftop was on fire. We took assorted long bomb trips elsewhere except where it matters the most: Washington. We employed dismissive arrogance where tactful island style diplomacy would have netted better and greater synergistic working relationships with the feds.

Do I expect economic recovery soon? Not really. We're still in a recession or vicious downward spiral heading to some abyss downstairs. Meanwhile, brace for worse conditions up ahead as we quiz, "Need it be this way?" It's a sigh of hardship that would destroy most households here for at least a decade. If you feel bad about it, imagine the difficulty I had to swallow organizing my thoughts to pen this piece. No fun either! Not when the multitude would be cringing from apocalyptic hardship.

■■■

Quick fixes?

A quick fix is now the new forte or mode of doing things among the elected elite on the hill, especially in the Covenant-dominated lower chamber. Most have used indistinct competency to forge shortsighted policies via legislation. Call it fuzzy logic or disorientation or both.

I can't fathom policies approved to date that are so far removed from the deepening economic mess at home. There are the infamous bicycle regulations and prohibition of undergarments in the tourist sector in Garapan. I think a joint resolution from the upper chamber acquiescing such rarity in solid mediocrity (performance rating) ought to complete the equation.

■■■

Ooops! The tent of unity is collapsing in GOP land. Is the wind of dissatisfaction turning into a slow powerful super storm? Well, the Covenant bunch isn't sure how to sail side-by-side with its former captain. The second chief mate is acquiescing decisions by the former chief on separate ships via text messages. Gee! The stench from the colossus of disunity is unbearably dizzying.

Letter to the Editor

It's their right

I recently read an article about a high school vice principal suing the CNMI in order to be allowed to vote on Article 12. While growing up in Maine I was indoctrinated into a Brahmin-style culture where it may take three to four generations for a family to be accepted and to be actually allowed to be involved in the local political process. After I left Maine I lived in more than six countries and I've come to respect the local people and to allow them to make their own decisions without my interference. I have only lived in one nation in Asia that allowed foreigners to own land. I have never told any government I have the right to own land, to vote, ask for the same rights as the locals, nor have I ever said I need the government to take care of me. I would be ashamed of myself if I had.

I truly believe that the Chamorros and Carolinians have 100 percent right to the land. Maybe the law needs to be rewritten a little, but those changes need to be addressed by the local population instead of me, a lawsuit, or by the U.S. government. As with the voting, it should be left to the Carolinians and Chamorros to decide on who gets to vote. After all, it's their land, their islands, and their right. No one else's. I have respect for the local population, due to my past and believe they will make their own decision without my help or anyone else's. I would ask all those who are not Chamorro or Carolinian to show such respect also. Engaging in legal action only causes animosity, hatred and anger toward those who are pushing for that change. By forcing the locals to sell to outsiders you are telling them you want to take away the last piece of their culture that they hold dear. That is something I could never do.

This land belongs to them, their children and many generations to come and no one should take that away from them. Remember we are only guests on this island, we are not the dinner guest who doesn't go home after eating or complains that the food wasn't up to our standards and demands that the host change the menu or type of food. Neither do we take all the food home when we leave and show ungratefulness to our hosts. This is not our homeland and if you don't like some of the laws on the island a plane is always available to take you home so you can live under the laws in your home country that you want to abide by and to ram down the throats of the people of the CNMI.

Keith Brooks
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

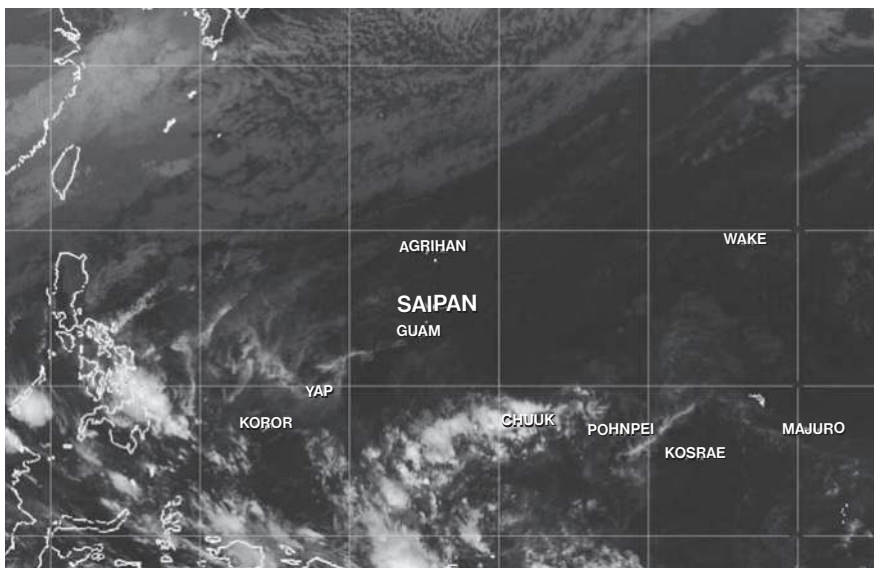
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲71	▼63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲32	▼16
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼58
Honolulu	Sunny	▲80	▼69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲52	▼42
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲69	▼46
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83	▼75
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲85	▼57
Miami	Sunny	▲74	▼51
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼36
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼35
Paris	Cloudy	▲52	▼41
Pusan	Sunny	▲46	▼31
Rome	Sunny	▲58	▼39
Salem	Showers	▲44	▼36
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼45
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲32	▼17
Tokyo	Sunny	▲48	▼33
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲54	▼36

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front transitioning to a shearline cuts southwestward from between Iwo To island and Minami Tori Shima at 25N150E to beyond 130E at 20N. Clouds and widespread showers are occurring along and northwest of the front to beyond 25N. Shear line fragments stretch southwestward from north of the Marianas at 16N144E to north of Yap and Koror at about 13N130E. One fragment runs from 16N144E to 13N137E and the other from 20N144E to beyond 13N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 75 miles northwest of these features. A near-equatorial trough south of Koror runs east-southeastward from 4N130E to end at EQ137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen south of this feature. A surface trough runs from 5N144E to EQ150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 175 miles of a line beginning at 8N153E and curving southwestward to EQ142E including Chuuk.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
4:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:22 PM	3:48 AM
Saturday	4:13 PM	4:40 AM
Sunday	5:07 PM	5:31 AM
Monday	6:02 PM	6:21 AM
Tuesday	6:58 PM	7:10 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05070	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/179	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Letter to the Editor

CNMI voters and 'tipping points'

I have noticed that several of your contributors have recently used the term "tipping point" when describing situations in the community that are also called the "last straw." They refer to things that happen in our community that can no longer be tolerated by the people. The book written by Malcolm Gladwell, *The Tipping Point: How little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, is an excellent way to understand why change happens in a community by reaching a tipping point. I have looked back over the last 10 years that I have lived in the CNMI to see if I could identify some tipping points that have happened in our community.

Certainly, the WTO rules change was a small change in the law that had a huge impact on the garment industry and our economy. We had plenty of warnings that this event was about to happen, the lead time was at least 10 years before the impact hit us. Our government did not react to the change so we went over the tipping point and now we live with the results: a failed economy that no one knows how to fix. It is a sad situation that we are in, and it was the failure of our government to help bring the changes that we needed before the tipping point was reached. It is true that many small things happen over time that has brought us to this economic tipping point, but once we tipped over it is very difficult to get back to where we want to be.

I have looked back at recent history and I wondered what must happen (how bad must it get) in the CNMI to cause the people to change their thinking about government. Our people must take actions (vote) in a way that would benefit them. Many things happened that should have taken us to tipping points that should have brought change, but did not. For example: poor planning and a lack of management by our leaders; the failure of the Retirement Fund; the poor performance of CUC to lower cost of power; the failure of CHC to provide excellent healthcare; the conviction of our leaders for corruption, etc.; the failure to control government budgets, even the governor taking an inmate out of prison to give him a massage—all of these things should have caused us to reach a tipping point when change should have occurred! But these things and many other examples seemed to have had no effect on how people voted. Why does this happen?

> I have attended several of the meetings of the 17th Legislature and it is not the same as the 16th. It appears to me that the "good old boys" (and girls) and old-style politics had taken over and the gains of the 16th were being lost in the 17th.

The 16th Legislature contained many good people who worked hard to bring change to the CNMI government and some progress was made. Transparency of government was improved, good discussions about CUC and CHC took place and planning was done. There were many fights between the Legislature and the Executive branches, but that seemed better than just being a rubber stamp for the Executive. I attended over half of the legislative meetings and I was impressed by the quality of people like Ed, Heinz, Tina, Arnold, Joe, etc. I considered them to be excellent people who tried hard to reform our "style of government." The disappointing thing is none of these people continued to serve in government. They were either voted out of office or quit. I have attended several of the meetings of the 17th Legislature and it is not the same as the 16th. It appears to me that the "good old boys" (and girls) and old-style politics had taken over and the gains of the 16th were being lost in the 17th. Ask yourself: Do the bills passed by the 17th Legislature really improve your life and the life of the people in general? No tipping point was reached, therefore no change happened.

Perhaps I have focused too much on the negative things when I looked for tipping points in our community. Good things can also cause great change to improve our community! I have looked for positive change and the one thing that stands out is when the federal government gave us the right to elect our own non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress! It was a positive tipping point. The election of Kilili has brought positive change to our community's communication and general relationship with the U.S. government. Our congressional office is responsive and transparent to the people. The result has been increased federal funding for important programs like education, the environment, and infrastructure. Kilili has been a role model for our young people; he works hard, holds village meetings, speaks well, and he supports our people. He feels our pain! The election of Kilili as our representative has been a positive event and it is leading us to a positive tipping point that we can easily see the improvements coming before us. The voters of the CNMI have got to remember that we reap what we sow! When we vote really good people into our public service we will get good results. Using "tipping points" thinking as a management tool could help us bring positive change for the CNMI.

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-005

PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

The Bid Packet may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2012 at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-005, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 19, 2012 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety firm holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Administrative Assistant, Procurement & Supply via mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Roof repair delay puts off library's 20th year celebration

A delay in repairing the roof of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has put off its 20th anniversary celebration in December, according to executive director John Oliver Gonzales yesterday.

Gonzales disclosed that the CNMI Library Council decided to move the anniversary celebration to December 2012, citing also as a reason urgent library operations and administrative matters they have to deal with.

"We definitely welcome the change in the date, which is appropriate and reasonable given the many grants and program initiatives that our NMI state library is currently handling," Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune*.

These initiatives include the successful lobbying for adequate funding and restoration of library operations to 80 hours in fiscal year 2012 and the timely and complete compilation of monitoring reports for grants under the Institute of Museum and Library Services, among others.

Gonzales said they will create over the next few months a 20th Anniversary Task Force to plan and organize literacy-related programs and activities in line with the December celebration. These include a literacy-themed parade with float competitions, block party, lecture series poetry and ukulele jams, and book and souvenir sale.

He noted that the roof project "will most definitely be completed in time and before the 20th anniversary celebrations."

"The roof repair will depend on the proposals to be submitted by bidders to the project, which we hope to address soon when that timeline approaches over the next month or two per the Department of Public Works," said Gonzales.

He said that Energy Division director Thelma B. Inos will try to help the library by financing the installation of solar panels on their roof through the CNMO State Energy Block Grant Programs "if and when there is funding available." ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Susupe building gets OK to install solar panels

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A company that plans to install solar panels on their property in Susupe can now do so without applying for a conditional use permit.

Acting Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro said the application of Marianas Business Plaza was taken out of yesterday's meeting agenda as approved by the board.

Marianas Business Plaza submitted a conditional use application requesting to install solar panels on its west parking areas, driveways, and walkways fronting its building.

Ogumoro asked for the board to approve the removal of this application from the agenda after conferring with legal counsel Kate Fuller.

She said further discovery and further review of the project's details led her to a decision to consider the plan as an "accessory use."

Ogumoro explained that when a company or a residential unit wants to set up solar panels for personal and not commercial use, it can be treated as a "minor site plan" and fall under accessory use. Once the company or residential unit plans to sell the power generated from the solar panels, then it has to apply for a conditional use permit.

"The applicant clarified that their main intention was to generate power for their building, therefore it's an accessory to their building. This is allowed or permitted under the building's current zone," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Marianas Business Plaza location is zoned as Village Commercial.

Although the proposed installation of solar panels has been deemed as a minor site plan, Ogumoro noted that they are requiring the applicant to follow the "primary condition."

"The applicant has to obtain the approval of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. before making any interconnection to CUC's electrical grids," she added.

Immigration judge hears 13 removal cases

The U.S. Immigration Court yesterday held hearings on 13 removal cases on Saipan.

Judge Clarence M. Wagner of Honolulu conducted the proceedings through a videoconference. All 13 respondents on Saipan appeared at the hearings.

The respondents are five Chinese nationals, seven Filipinos, and one Indian national.

Saipan Tribune learned that most of the cases were continued, while a couple of respondents were found removable.

Wagner is expected to hold more hearings today, Friday, on two cases involving Chinese nationals.

Saipan Tribune counted hundreds of removal cases that have been filed with the Saipan Immigration Court since the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009. Many of the respondents have criminal convictions.

The immigration court had already declared many of these respondents removable but they were allowed to voluntarily depart the CNMI. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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KIA | STOCK # | Color | Discount
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Fit | BC022295 | Gray | $2,500.00
CRV LX | BC010978 | Blue | $3,000.00
Accord SE | BA140613 SOLD | White | $3,000.00
Odyssey LX | BB084502 | White | $4,000.00
FORD | STOCK # | Color | Discount
Fiesta S | BM185728 SOLD | Silver | $2,000.00
Escape XLS | BKC35087 | Blue | $2,500.00
Explorer XLT | AUA60809 | Silver | $4,000.00
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Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.
* Ford Ranger Regular Cab 2WD M/T total price $17,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 10.25% APR for 60 monthly payments of $307.62 or $142 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $18,457.20. Documentation fees and registration not included.
Ford
Feel the difference

Castro, Wiseman, and Inos up for retention election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Castro

Wiseman

Inos

Associate justice Alexandro C. Castro and associate judges David A. Wiseman and Perry B. Inos will be up for retention election this November.

Under the CNMI Constitution, the question of whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

Saipan Tribune learned that Castro's eight-year term will expire in July 2014. The six-year term for Wiseman and Inos will expire in March 2013 and September 2014 respectively.

Castro, Wiseman, and Inos have not disclosed yet if they plan to submit to the retention election.

Castro ascended to the CNMI Supreme Court bench on July 9, 1998. In 2005, voters retained Castro to the high tribunal's bench.

Wiseman became an associate judge in the Superior Court in March 2001. In 2005, CNMI voters retained him, making him the first non-indigenous judge to capture a retention poll.

Inos ascended to the Superior Court bench in September 2008.

In 2003, Juan T. Lizama was the first judge in the CNMI to be retained on the bench.

Voters backed the retention of then chief justice Miguel Demapan in 2005, and judges Robert C. Naraja, Ramona V. Manglona, Kenneth Govendo, and associate justice John A. Manglona in 2007.

Timothy H. Bellas and Virginia Onerheim-Sablan are the only former judges who were not retained.

Manglona tells plaintiff to explain why case should not be dismissed

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered a man who claimed that he sustained a brain injury due to many years of exposure to solvents at his jobsite to explain why his discrimination lawsuit should not be dismissed for lack of prosecution.

Adolfo M. Lumbad was given until Jan. 13, 2012, to respond in writing.

Manglona noted that Lumbad's case has been pending for three years without any action being taken by the parties.

"If a proceeding has been pending for more than six months without any action taken by the parties…the court may dismiss the proceeding for lack of prosecution," she said.

Lumbad filed the lawsuit without a lawyer in December 2008. At the time he was 57. He alleged that his employer terminated him as a mechanic/waste material recycler, apparently due to his disability and age.

He sued Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp. for alleged violation of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, differential treatment on medical benefits, termination based on disability, breach of contract, violation of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and infliction of emotional distress.

He demanded payment for damages, costs of medical care, lost earnings and employment benefits, attorney's fees, and court costs.

PMIC runs the Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Lumbad stated that he was employed with PMIC as a mechanic but was assigned to work at its chemical and hazardous materials section as a material waste recycler since March 2001. He was terminated on Feb. 5, 2008. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PREL collaborates with New Zealand on computer centers

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Pacific Resources for Education and Learning is developing new alliances with partners in New Zealand. Collaborators are working together on technology, educational, and indigenous issues, including the development of a computer network for young people throughout the Pacific that fuels high-tech job creation.

In mid-November, the president and CEO of PREL, Dr. Sharon Nelson-Barber, attended an Intel Computer Clubhouse Stakeholder Delegation meeting at the New Zealand Embassy in Washington, DC.

The Intel Computer Clubhouse Network is a global community of 100 computer clubhouses located in 20 different countries. Computer Clubhouse New Zealand has adopted the program in New Zealand and is looking to expand the computer centers throughout the Pacific region with the help of nonprofit partners such as PREL.

The strategic meeting was hosted by New Zealand Ambassador to the United States Mike Moore. Other key development partners in attendance included: Haami (Sam) Tutu Chapman, chairperson CCNZ Trust; professor Graham Smith, CEO of Te Whare Wananga o Awanuirangi; Ann Milne, CCNZ board and Kia Aroha College; Gail Breslow, executive director of ICCN; Dr. Sharon Nelson-Barber, CEO of PREL; Rex Horio, executive director of Foundation for South Pacific Peoples International; Barry Shain, The Shain Group, Inc.; Mike Usmar, CEO CCNZ Trust.

PREL has a longstanding collaborative relationship with partners in New Zealand, including faculty members from Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi Indigenous University, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga hosted by the University of Auckland, and Te Kotahi Research Institute for Innovation, Well-being and Inspiration at Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato.

Many New Zealand scholars are also members of the Polaris Network: Pacific Opportunities to Learn, Advance and Research Indigenous Systems, founded by Dr. Nelson-Barber at PREL. They also share membership in professional organizations such as The Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific (affiliated with the American Educational Research Association) and The Indigenous Peoples in Evaluation (affiliated with the American Evaluation Association).

PREL's alliance with Computer Clubhouse New Zealand is one of many emerging new partnerships with entities in the South Pacific. The 18th consultation meeting of the Pacific Heads of Education Systems, held in Koror, Palau, included delegations from the PREL region, along with South Pacific development partners and intergovernmental agencies. PREL offered updates on its work with South Pacific partners on climate issues, as well as updates on its Pacific Islands Climate Change Education Partnership, which serves the North Pacific region.

Joint ventures like Computer Clubhouse continue to expand PREL's reach. Successful partnerships provide educational leaders of the Pacific with a broader community where they can discuss and deliberate on issues and challenges of common concern. ***(PREL)***

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's Saipan president Joe Ayuyu, right, and his wife, McDonald's general manager Marcia Ayuyu, left, flank Main Store Employee of the Year Emmanuel James Bautista and Garapan Store Employee of the Year Ruthzel Perez during awarding ceremonies held at the company's Christmas party.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Kagman III**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 011 G 1091, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 20, the original of which was recorded 09 Dec 93 as Document No. 93-4288 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan., the description therein being incorporated herein by reference, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$38,019.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Sadog Tasi,** Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

TRACT NUMBER 21899-2, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2086/81, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 12450, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1981, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$32,419.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Dandan**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

LOT NO. 010 K 05, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 892 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 010 K 01 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 87-2911 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$42,219.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

Appropriators Act to improve implementation of Compacts

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo has announced that the House passed H.R. 2055, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2012, by a vote of 296 yeas to 121 noes. The Senate is expected to pass the bill later to avoid a shutdown of the federal government.

This bill creates a new position within the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs dedicated to working on Compact-impact issues. The bill also directs Interior to work with the Freely Associated States to develop a comprehensive plan to mitigate the costs of Compact migration. This plan seeks to better educate migrants and potential migrants that the primary purpose of the Compact migration benefit is to provide educational and employment opportunities to Freely Associated States citizens, not for migrants to develop an over-reliance on public services. The plan would also seek to improve Freely Associated States capacity to provide dialysis and other medical services to avoid the need for their citizens to seek treatment in Guam or other jurisdictions. It would also improve screening procedures to identify and restrict migration of individuals who have communicable diseases or who have been convicted of serious crimes.

These provisions were originally recommended to the Department of Interior in a March 2011 letter led by Sen. Daniel Inouye and Sen. Jeff Bingaman. Bordallo cosigned the letter expressing her support for the renewed focus on Compact-impact issues.

"The Compact provisions contained in this appropriations bill will, over time, help ease the financial burden placed on the Government of Guam, and other affected jurisdictions, moving forward," said Bordallo. "Chairman Inouye has been a strong supporter of improving existing law to assist local governments affected by the Compacts, and I thank him for his leadership in including these provisions in this year's Consolidated Appropriations Act. I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress and all stakeholders to ensure that we meet the U.S. obligations under the Compacts while addressing the burden on our local governments." ***(PR)***

INFORMATION SESSION

Northern Marianas College international counselor Ni Deleon Guerrero, standing far right, explains to participants about the application process for individuals from other countries who wish to pursue their education at NMC. At the recently held information session, participants were given presentations on various topics such as the admissions process, how to apply for financial aid, and resources available to NMC students. Participants were also able to meet representatives from NMC's different degree programs and student services offices. Registration for NMC's spring 2012 semester begins on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GIFT DISTRIBUTION

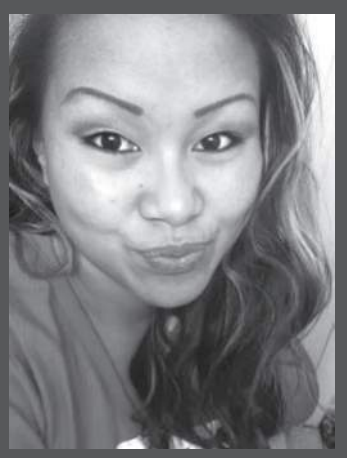
CNMI-Palauan Community Association Youth Club officers Vicente "VJ" Cabrera, president; Tyron Ilemelong, vice president; and Kaylin Martin, secretary, pose with the gift basket they distributed to fellow Palauans and individuals with disabilities in the CNMI on Dec. 27, 2011. Not in photo are Mario Brel, human resource officer, and Godiva Asanuma, treasurer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

No matter how many birthdays come and go, you'll always be our little girl. Today is your special day; you are the princess of our world. We wish you love and strength and a very happy birthday, Leianna Jean Borja Warwick! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, and Adam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Naomi Sablan Taisakan! Wishing you happiness and joy today and a great year ahead. This wish for a happy birthday brings more love than words can say, love that holds you close in thought and close at heart each day! Greetings come from Lurissa Leinoni and Luis Ryan Cepeda.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Lurissa Leinoni Aldan Cepeda! You got your looks from me, your personality from Dad, and all of your other good traits…from me! Today is a special day, because it is the day when we first saw our angel. We love you princess! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, Patrick, Luluboy, and your SV family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday greetings go out to Sheila Sambile, who will be celebrating her special day on Jan. 7! Enjoy your special day, may you have many more to come, and we love you, girl! Greetings come from Randall, Leslie, Mona, the staff and management of Poseidon Bar and Grill, Bing, friends, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

The Economics of Happiness

First Friday Films will be featuring its first film of the year and you don't want to miss it. The Economics of Happiness, a film by Helena Norberg-Hodge, Steven Gorelick, and John Page, will be shown today, Jan. 6, 2012, 6:30pm at the American Memorial Parks Visitors Center.

Economic globalization has led to a massive expansion in the scale and power of business and banking. *The Economics of Happiness describes a* world moving simultaneously in two opposing directions. On one hand, the alliance between governments and big business continues to promote globalization and consolidation of corporate power. And on the other, people all over the world are resisting those policies. Communities are coming together to rebuild more human-scale, ecological economies based on a new paradigm—the economics of localization.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you in partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with support from community groups and organizations

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 65 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public.

Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. ***(DEQ)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citizens for Changing Article 12 exec on *Marianas Agupa*

This Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Citizens for Changing Article 12 chair Efrain Camacho to talk about one of the stumbling blocks holding back economic development in the CNMI, from 10:am to 10:30am. The show starts at 9am and ends at 11am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The Chamorro radio talk show is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: world report and program review by former mayor Joseph S. Inos and a report from Rota by Thomas D. Mendiola, a special segment called *Hafa Mohon* with Juanita Mendiola and a report from Tinian by former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

DEQ cleanup brigade targets Lao Lao Bay

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Lao Lao Bay, Saipan this Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, starting at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet with the other volunteers at the new parking lot near the picnic area (also known as South Laolao Bay). Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

Chamber Installation Dinner on Jan. 21

The 2012 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Officers and Directors Installation Dinner will be held this Jan. 21, 2012, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. Jerry Tan, president of Tan Holdings, will be this year's keynote speaker. The Chamber will also announce its 2011 Businessperson of the Year award recipient. SCC will continue with its Installation Dinner tradition and hold a silent auction to raise funds for the Scholarship Awards Program.

The deadline for nominations for Businessperson of the Year Award has been extended to Jan. 9, 2012.

Reservations for the $50-per-head dinner are being accepted. Reserve seating for the event by calling the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices at 233-7150/7152, or send an email to coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

First aid/CPR/AED training dates

- Adult CPR/AED: Jan. 11, Wednesday, 6pm-9pm
- First Aid: Jan. 12, Thursday, 6pm-9pm
- Adult CPR/AED: Jan. 14, Saturday, 8am-11am
- First Aid: Jan. 14, Saturday, 1pm-4pm
- Adult First Aid/CPR/AED: Jan. 21, Saturday, 8am-1pm
- Adult CPR/AED, Jan. 24, Tuesday, 6pm-9pm
- First Aid: Jan. 25, Wednesday, 6pm-9pm

Contact the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter at 234-3459 to register. To learn more, visit www.redcross.org/training. ***(ARC)***

Business

Americans expected to buy more cars in 2012

DETROIT (AP)—Strong sales in December capped off a great year for U.S. carmakers—especially Chrysler—and 2012 should be even better.

For their biggest Japanese rivals, a year of natural disasters and other struggles ended on a sour note, with U.S. sales falling and the outlook for this year just as challenging.

Chrysler Group, in the midst of a comeback after its 2009 trip through bankruptcy court, said Wednesday that sales surged 37 percent in December and 26 percent for all of 2011. Demand was particularly strong for the Jeep Grand Cherokee and the Chrysler 200. Chrysler catapulted itself ahead of Honda Motor Co. as the fourth-largest automaker by sales in the U.S.

General Motors Co. and Ford Motor Co. ended the year with more modest double-digit percentage gains. Analysts say U.S. car and truck sales rose for the second year in a row as buyers' confidence in the economy picked up, their aging vehicles wore down and their ability to take out cheap loans improved.

U.S. auto sales rose 10 percent to 12.8 million in 2011. That's up 23 percent from 2009, when the U.S. auto industry and the financial system were in peril.

The best-selling vehicle in 2011 was the Ford F-Series pickup—the 30th straight year it's been at the top. That was followed by Chevrolet's Silverado pickup. Next were cars: the Toyota Camry and Nissan Altima sedans. Rounding out the top 10 were the Ford Escape small SUV, the Ford Fusion midsize sedan, the Ram pickup, Toyota's Corolla compact, the Honda Accord sedan and the new Chevy Cruze compact.

November and December were the strongest months of the year for U.S. auto sales, and analysts expect the momentum to continue into 2012. Improving employment numbers, low interest rates and building demand to replace older cars should all boost 2012 sales.

GM's December sales rose 5 percent, resulting in a 13 percent bump for the year, while Ford's December sales climbed 10 percent, closing out an 11 percent gain for 2011.

AP

This photo taken Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011, shows 2012 Chrysler Jeep Wranglers for sale at a auto dealership in Springfield, Ill.

Nissan Motor Co., which recovered more quickly than its rivals from the March earthquake and tsunami in Japan, was the only major Japanese automaker to sell more cars in the U.S. in 2011. Its sales surged nearly 8 percent in December and 15 percent for the year. Nissan's Leaf electric car also outsold GM's Chevrolet Volt in the cars' first full year on the market. Nissan sold 9,674 Leafs, beating the Volt by just over 2,000.

But for Honda and Toyota, 2011 was a disappointing sales year.

They couldn't get enough cars and trucks to U.S. dealers because of Japan's disasters and flooding in Thailand. Toyota said Wednesday that it doesn't expect its inventory to be at normal levels until March.

Both carmakers, whose sales fell 7 percent in 2011, were also hurt by aging offerings like the Toyota Corolla and poor reviews of the new Honda Civic.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Closing: 5 Macy's and 4 Bloomingdale's stores

CINCINNATI (AP)—Macy's Inc. says it will close five Macy's and four Bloomingdale's stores that are underperforming. Clearance sales will begin at the stores Sunday and run for 10 weeks. More than 830 workers will be affected by the closings—375 at Macy's stores and 463 at Bloomingdale's. But many may have the option of taking jobs at new stores the company plans to open. The closing Macy's stores are in Topeka, Kan.; Laurel, Md.; Parma, Ohio; Antioch, Tenn.; and Texas City, Texas. The Bloomingdale's closures are in Atlanta; Oak Brook, Ill.; North Bethesda, Md.; and in the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn.

Ecuador plaintiffs seek Chevron payment worldwide

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Ecuadoreans who won a court judgment against U.S. oil company Chevron Corp. said Wednesday that they'll seek to collect billions of dollars through courts in other countries, including by confiscating the company's assets and freezing its international accounts. An Ecuadorean court on Tuesday ratified a 2011 judgment penalizing Chevron for pollution that contaminated the Amazon rain forest more than two decades ago. The company denounced the ruling in a statement as "unenforceable in any court that observes the rule of law." Chevron has also said it will seek legal recourse in courts outside of Ecuador.

Oil price stays around $103 per barrel

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices were little changed Wednesday as traders booked profits after a 4-percent surge at the start of the year. Benchmark U.S. crude rose 26 cents to finish at $103.22 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, which is used to price foreign oil that's imported by U.S. refineries, rose $1.57 to end the day at $113.70 per barrel in London. Prices jumped Tuesday on concerns that Iran might try to close off the strategic Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, if the U.S. and other nations impose further economic sanctions because of Iran's nuclear program. One-sixth of the world's oil exports move through the strait.

Stirring up a fight, Obama names consumer watchdog

SHAKER HEIGHTS, Ohio (AP)—Defying Republican lawmakers, President Barack Obama on Wednesday barreled by the Senate and installed a national consumer watchdog on his own, provoking GOP threats of a constitutional showdown in the courts. Setting a fierce tone in the election-year fight for middle-class voters, Obama said: "I refuse to take `no' for an answer."

Obama named Richard Cordray, a respected former attorney general of Ohio, to be the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau after giving up on hopes for a confirmation vote in the Senate. The appointment means the agency is able to oversee a vast swath of lending companies and others accused at times of preying on consumers with shady practices.

In political terms, Obama's move was unapologetically brazen, the equivalent of a haymaker at Republicans in the Senate who had blocked his nominee. Acting right after Tuesday's presidential caucuses in Iowa, which showered attention on his opponents, Obama sought to make a splash as the one fighting for the rights of the little guy.

Cordray

Presidents of both parties long have gotten around a stalled confirmation by naming a nominee to a job when the Senate is on a break through a process known as a recess appointment.

But Obama went further by squeezing in his appointment during a break between rapid Senate sessions this week, an unusual move that the GOP called an arrogant power grab.

The White House said what the Senate was doing—gaveling in and out of session every few days solely to avoid being in recess—was a sham. Obama's aides said the president would not be stopped by a legislative gimmick, even though it was Senate Democrats who began the practice to halt President George W. Bush's appointments.

"When Congress refuses to act, and as a result hurts our economy and puts people at risk, I have an obligation as president to do what I can without them," Obama said from Ohio, a state vital to Obama's re-election bid.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

he Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Garapan**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

LOT NO. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st Day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$90,000.00.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Kagman III**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

LOT NO. 011 G 308, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 797 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 G 06, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4414, DATED DECEMBER 16, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$43,619.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
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Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

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NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Kagman II**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 002 G 263, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, dated May 14, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$57,619.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
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Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

Nation

After Iowa, Romney now hopes to pull away in NH

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)—Mitt Romney eagerly pocketed an endorsement from two-time New Hampshire primary winner John McCain on Wednesday and bid to convert a single-digit victory in Iowa into a Republican presidential campaign juggernaut. Unimpressed, Newt Gingrich ridiculed the former Massachusetts governor as a liberal turned moderate now masquerading as a conservative.

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum sought to rally conservatives to his side after coming achingly close to victory in Iowa, saying he "hoped to surprise a few people just like we did" in the campaign's first contest.

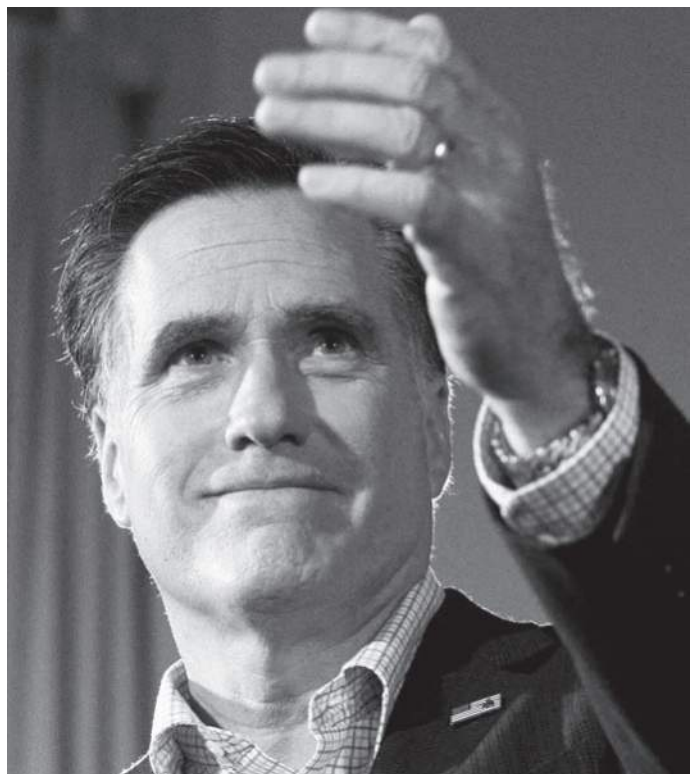
"This is a wide-open race still," added former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, who skipped the Iowa caucuses in hopes of making his mark in next Tuesday's first-in-the-nation primary.

Romney is the odds-on favorite to win the New Hampshire primary, though, and it is unclear how much campaign cash any of his rivals has available to try to slow or even stop his momentum. Additionally, in a measure of his establishment support, the former governor announced he would campaign with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley on Thursday, as he was joined by McCain in New Hampshire.

"The time has arrived for Republicans to choose a presidential nominee, a new standard bearer who has the ability and determination to defeat President Obama," said McCain, the 2008 Republican presidential nominee, and a man with a demonstrated appeal to the state's independent voters.

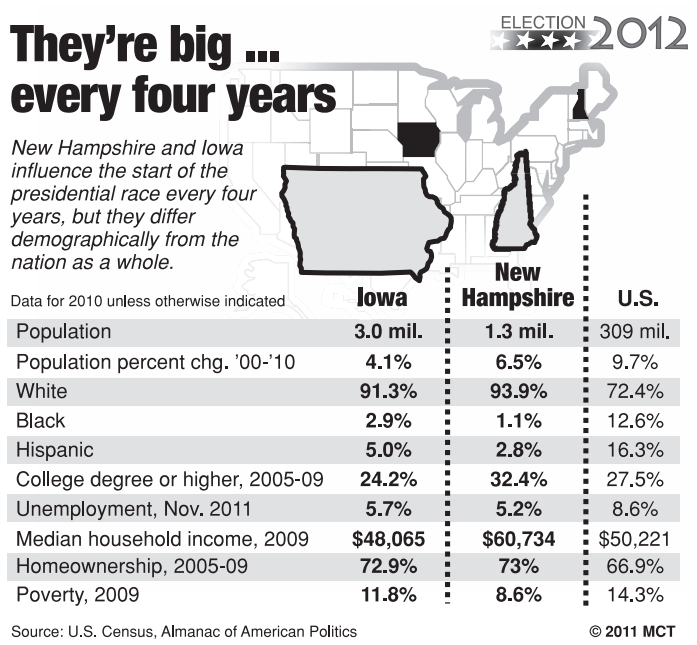
Already, the Republican field of challengers was dwindling.

Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann ended her campaign after a dreary 5 percent showing in Iowa, the state where she was born.



AP

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney campaigns in Peterborough, N.H., Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012.


They're big ... every four years
ELECTION 2012
New Hampshire and Iowa influence the start of the presidential race every four years, but they differ demographically from the nation as a whole.
Data for 2010 unless otherwise indicated
Iowa
New Hampshire
U.S.
Population 3.0 mil. 1.3 mil. 309 mil.
Population percent chg. '00-'10 4.1% 6.5% 9.7%
White 91.3% 93.9% 72.4%
Black 2.9% 1.1% 12.6%
Hispanic 5.0% 2.8% 16.3%
College degree or higher, 2005-09 24.2% 32.4% 27.5%
Unemployment, Nov. 2011 5.7% 5.2% 8.6%
Median household income, 2009 $48,065 $60,734 $50,221
Homeownership, 2005-09 72.9% 73% 66.9%
Poverty, 2009 11.8% 8.6% 14.3%
Source: U.S. Census, Almanac of American Politics
© 2011 MCT

After suggesting he, too, might withdraw, Texas Gov. Rick Perry decided otherwise. "Here we come, South Carolina!!!" he tweeted. That primary is Jan. 21, and will mark the first balloting in the South as well as in a state that is part of the Republican Party's conservative, political base nationally.

Iowa, for months ground zero in the Republican race, yielded an almost impossibly close finish.

Romney emerged with an eight-vote victory over Santorum, whose grass-roots campaigning produced a late surge that fell just shy of victory. Texas Rep. Ron Paul finished third, followed by Gingrich, Perry and Bachmann.

A survey of Iowa caucus-goers highlighted the internal divisions in the GOP as it sets out to find a challenger for President Barack Obama in the general election campaign.

Romney, who campaigned as the man best positioned to defeat Obama, was the favorite by far among caucus-goers who said that goal was their priority. Paul was preferred by those who said what mattered most was backing a true conservative. Santorum ran particularly well among those who said they were looking for a candidate with strong moral character.

Paul outpolled his rivals among younger voters and gained an estimated 48 percent share of self-identified independents, a group that traditionally plays a major role in determining the outcome of New Hampshire's primary.

"If you look to bringing new people in, the frustrated young people that Obama had, you have to look at my campaign. I mean that's where the enthusiasm is," he said.

McCain and Romney clashed sharply as rivals in 2008 before reconciling for the fall campaign.

The Arizona senator did well among younger and independent voters in his two New Hampshire primary campaigns. Now, in a supporting role, he said, "Our message to President Obama is, you can run but you can't hide from your record."

Newt Gingrich takes tougher tone in criticism of Romney

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich pummeled front-running rival Mitt Romney as "a moderate Massachusetts Republican to the left of the vast majority" of their party, displaying a tough new tone in New Hampshire after a disappointing performance in Iowa's caucuses.

Gingrich launched a blistering attack on Romney in what is essentially the home turf of the former Massachusetts governor, who owns a house here.

The former House speaker said Romney had run a Senate race "to the left" of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and had transformed into a moderate to run for governor. What's more, Gingrich said, Romney was once an independent who repudiated Reagan-Bush policies and voted for "liberal" Paul Tsongas in his 1992 bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

And Gingrich disputed the idea that Romney is the most electable candidate in the GOP field, arguing that three out of four Republicans rejected him in Iowa.

"The fact is, Gov. Romney has a very limited appeal in a conservative party," he said.

Gingrich effectively broke a pledge to run a positive campaign, although he didn't see it that way. The former House speaker contended that as long as he stuck to facts and accurately portrayed Romney's record—in recent days he has called Romney a liar in regard to Gingrich's own record—the strategy was not negative.

Gingrich was battered by a barrage of attack ads in Iowa that deflated his frontrunner status. A number of them were run by a political action committee backing Romney.

Gingrich is seeking to reboot his White House bid. He is campaigning in New Hampshire, which holds it primary Jan.10, but has his eye on South Carolina, the first Southern primary where evangelicals and social conservatives hold sway.

The pro-Gingrich super PAC Winning Our Future posted online a 2008 ad from John McCain's primary campaign highlighting Romney's flip-flops on abortion and gun rights and on being a Republican.

McCain endorsed Romney on Wednesday in New Hampshire. But in 2008 they were rivals for the GOP nomination for president and the McCain camp pummeled him for swapping positions.

"Mitt Romney's flip-flops truly are masterpieces," the ad concludes.

Gingrich didn't congratulate Romney Tuesday night in Iowa and declined an opportunity to do so Wednesday in New Hampshire.

"I know that's a rhetorical question," Gingrich told a reporter who asked why he hadn't offered the traditional postelection congratulations to the victor.

"I suspect it's going to be a very lively campaign. I am delighted to be in New Hampshire to talk about big ideas, big solutions and a big contrast," he said.

Texas police kill 8th-grader carrying pellet gun

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP)—Police shot and killed an eighth-grader in the hallway of his middle school Wednesday after the boy brandished what looked like a handgun and pointed it at officers. It turned out to be a pellet gun that closely resembled the real thing.

Fifteen-year-old Jaime Gonzalez "had plenty of opportunities to lower the gun and listen to the officers' orders, and he didn't want to," Interim Police Chief Orlando Rodriguez said.

Shortly before the confrontation, the boy had walked into a classroom and punched a random boy in the nose for no apparent reason, police said. Investigators did not know why he pulled out the weapon.

"We think it looks like this was a way to bring attention to himself," the police chief said. He said the officers' actions were justified and no one else was hurt.

Authorities declined to share what the boy said before being shot.

The shooting happened during first period at Cummings Middle School in Brownsville. Teachers locked classroom doors and turned off lights, and some frightened students dove under their desks. They could hear police charge down the hallway and shout for Gonzalez to drop the weapon, followed by several shots.

Two officers fired three shots, hitting Gonzalez at least twice, police said.

The boy's father, Jaime Gonzalez Sr., said he had no idea where his son got the gun or why he brought it to school.

"We wouldn't give him a gift like that," he told The Associated Press from the family's home, where other relatives and friends of his son were gathering Wednesday night.

He said nothing seemed amiss when he, his wife and their son went out for nachos the night before, then went home and watched a movie. He said he last saw his son Wednesday morning, when the boy said goodbye before leaving to catch the bus to school.

Gonzalez Sr. was struggling to reconcile the day's events, saying his son seemed to be doing better in school and was always helpful around the neighborhood mowing neighbors' lawns, washing dogs and carrying his toolbox off to fix other kids' bikes.

Both he and his wife, Noralva, questioned why police repeatedly shot at their son and called the shooting unjustified.

"Why was so much excess force used on a minor?" he asked. "Three shots. Why not one that would bring him down?"

His wife, who demanded that the officers be punished, added: "What happened was an injustice."

Rodriguez said his officers "took the necessary action to protect themselves and the other kids." There weren't many others in the hall at the time, but "they had every right to take the action that they took."

The boy's godmother, Norma Leticia Navarro, said she couldn't imagine why he would have brought a gun to school.

"I wish I could ask him why he did that, `Why did you put yourself in that position?'"

More US women having twins; rate at 1 in 30 babies

ATLANTA (AP)—The number of twins born in the U.S. soared over the last three decades, mostly the result of test-tube babies and women waiting to have children until their 30s, when the chances of twins increase.

In 2009, 1 in every 30 babies born in the U.S. was a twin, an astounding increase over the 1 in 53 rate in 1980, according to a government report issued Wednesday.

"When people say it seems like you see more twins nowadays, they're right," said Joyce Martin, an epidemiologist who co-authored the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report.

Some increase was expected as more women are delaying starting a family until they are over 30. For some unknown reason, mothers in their 30s are more likely to have twins than younger or older women. As much as a third of the increase can be attributed to that, Martin said.

The rest of the rise is due to fertility drugs and treatments.

"You have a double whammy going on. There are more older moms and more widespread use of fertility-enhancing therapies," Martin said.

Starting in the early 1980s, couples who had trouble conceiving began to benefit from medical advances like fertility drugs and in vitro fertilization and other procedures. These treatments became fairly widespread in the 1990s but are expensive, and availability and insurance coverage varies.

World

Some find hope in Afghan outcry over bride's abuse

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Just 15 years old, Sahar Gul has become the bruised and bloodied face of women's rights in Afghanistan. The teenage bride's eyes were swollen nearly shut as she was wheeled into the hospital seven months after her arranged marriage. Black scabs crusted her fingertips where her nails used to be.

According to officials in northeastern Baghlan province, Gul's in-laws kept her in a basement for six months, ripped her fingernails out, tortured her with hot irons and broke her fingers—all in an attempt to force her into prostitution. Police freed her after her uncle called authorities.

The horrific images, captured by television news cameras last week, transfixed Afghanistan and set off a storm of condemnation. President Hamid Karzai set up a commission to investigate, and his health minister visited her bedside. Police arrested her in-laws, who denied abusing her. A warrant was issued for her husband, who serves in the Afghan army.

The case highlights both the problems and the progress of women 10 years after the Taliban's fall. Gul's egregious wounds and underage wedlock are a reminder that girls and women still suffer shocking abuse. But the public outrage and the government's response to it also show that the country is slowly changing.

"Let's break the dead silence on women's plight," read the title of an editorial Wednesday in the Afghanistan Times.

Despite guaranteed rights and progressive new laws, Afghanistan still ranks as the world's sixth-worst country for women's equality in the U.N. Development Program's annual Gender Inequality Index. Nevertheless, Afghan advocates say attitudes have subtly shifted over the years, in part thanks to the dozens of women's groups that have sprung up.

Fawzia Kofi, a lawmaker and head of the women's affairs commission in the Afghan parliament, says the outcry over a case like Gul's probably would not have happened just a few years ago because of deep cultural taboos against airing private family conflicts and acknowledging sexual abuse—such as forcing a woman into prostitution.

"I think there is now a sense of awareness about women's rights. People seem to be changing and seem to be talking about it," Kofi said.

Ending abuse of women is a huge challenge in a patriarchal society where traditional practices include child marriage, giving girls away to settle debts or pay for their relatives' crimes and so-called honor killings in which girls seen as disgracing their families are murdered by their relatives.

And some women activists worry that their hard-won political rights may erode as foreign troops withdraw and Karzai's government seeks to negotiate with the Taliban to end their insurgency. Women's rights, they fear, may be the first to go in any deal with the hardline Islamic militants.

"I'm afraid we won't have all this anymore if the Taliban are allowed back into society," said Sima Natiq, a longtime activist.

Freedoms for women are one of the most visible—and symbolic—changes in Afghanistan since 2001 U.S.-led campaign that toppled the Taliban regime.

WORLD BRIEFS

Libya army chief of staff wants to disarm fighters

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Libya's new military chief of staff said Wednesday his first missions are to protect the desert nation's vast borders and help disarm thousands of former rebels who took part in the overthrow of longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi. Speaking to reporters in the capital, Tripoli, Gen. Youssef Mangoush said the country's fledgling military faces huge obstacles, including rebuilding its bases and purchasing new equipment. "Many of the military compounds are partially or totally damaged, most of the gear and equipment is destroyed and the army before the revolution was neglected by the old regime," he said.

Pakistani militants kill 15 security officers

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani militants claimed Thursday to have killed 15 security force members they kidnapped last month close to the Afghan border, showing that not all insurgent factions are interested in reported peace talks with the government. The Pakistani army said it was investigating. The men were members of the Constabulary Corp, a paramilitary outfit active in the border region with Afghanistan.

Landslide kills 25 in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A landslide buried dozens of people Thursday at a small-scale gold mining site in the southern Philippines, leaving at least 25 dead months after government officials warned miners that the mountain above them was guaranteed to crumble. The landslide struck around 3:00 a.m. (2100 GMT Wednesday), when most residents were asleep. Aside from those confirmed dead, more than 100 people are believed to be buried in the rubble in Napnapan village in Pantukan township, Compostela Valley provincial Gov. Arturo Uy said.

Twin explosions in Baghdad kill 6

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi officials say two explosions in a Shiite neighborhood of eastern Baghdad have killed six people and wounded at least 16 others. In the first attack, police officials say a motorbike bomb went off near a gathering of day laborers in the Sadr city neighborhood Thursday morning, killing six people and wounding 10 others. Half an hour later, a roadside bomb exploded near a small tea shop in the same neighborhood, wounding six people.

Swank sushi: Tuna fetches record $736K in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP)—This tuna is worth savoring: It cost nearly three-quarters of a million dollars. A bluefin tuna caught off northeastern Japan fetched a record 56.49 million yen, or about $736,000, Thursday in the first auction of the year at Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market. The price for the 269-kilogram (593-pound) tuna beat last year's record of 32.49 million yen. The price translates to 210,000 yen per kilogram, or $1,238 per pound—also a record, said Yutaka Hasegawa, a Tsukiji market official.

Eleonor P. Vidal
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Telephone: (670) 235-0800

Pro-Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITIONER FOR THE CHANGE OF NAME OF:	)	**FCD CN-Civil Action No. 11-0556**
BOBBY V. SIERRA (Child Current Name) A Minor Child	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	)	
ELEONOR P. VIDAL Petitioner	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 2, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2011

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

BRUCE L. MAILMAN, #F0153
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
PMB 238 PPP, BOX 10000
SAIPAN, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC. Plaintiff,	)	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0295 (E)**
-v-	)	**SUMMONS**
FRANCISCO E. SANTOS, Defendant.	)	

TO: FRANCISCO E. SANTOS
P.O. BOX 511655
ROTA, MP 96951

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to MAILMAN & KARA, LLC, Attn: Bruce L. Mailman, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is PMB 238, Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 2nd day of November, 2011:

/s/ CLERK OF COURTS

BRUCE L. MAILMAN, #F0153
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
PMB 238 PPP, BOX 10000
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC. Plaintiff,	)	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0295**
-v-	)	**COMPLAINT**
FRANCISCO E. SANTOS, Defendant.	)	

1. Jurisdiction of this matter is vested in this Honorable Court by virtue of Commonwealth Const. Art. 4, Sec. 2, and by virtue of the provisions of Section 3202 of the Commonwealth Judicial Reorganization Act of 1989.

2. Plaintiff is Wells Fargo Financial, Inc., a corporation licensed to transact the business of financing within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

3. Defendant Francisco E. Santos is a United States citizen and a person of Northern Marianas descent residing at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

4. On or about August 9, 2007 defendant executed a Promissory Note ("the Note") in favor of plaintiff in the amount of $35,873.82, plus interest at 8.63% per annum. A true and correct copy of the Note is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by this reference.

5. The Note was secured by a Real Property Mortgage ("the Mortgage"), executed by defendant on August 9, 2007, and recorded on the same day as file no. 07-1755 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated by this reference. The Mortgage secured repayment of the Note and pledged to Plaintiff the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, known as Lot 373-3-5-1, which is more particularly described in the Mortgage as:

LOT 373-3-5-1 (FORMERLY PART OF LOT 373-3-5, WHICH WAS PART OF LOT 373-3, WHICH WAS PART OF LOT 373, TD 151), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2059/06, the original of which was recorded on June 9, 2006 as Document No. 06-1424 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

6. Defendant is in default on the Note, in that he has not made all the payments provided for therein to be made.

7. On or about August 18, 2011 plaintiff, through counsel, dispatched notice of default of the note to Mr. Santos by US Postal Service certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice of default was in both the English and Chamorro languages. A true and correct copy of the notice of default in both languages, with the return receipt dated September 20, 2011, are attached hereto collectively as Exhibit C and incorporated by this reference.

8. Pursuant to the terms of the Note and the provisions of 2 CMC §4534(d), the entire outstanding principal balance of the loan is now due and owing by defendant to plaintiff, together with interest, as follows:

Outstanding principal balance: $ 31,310.63
Amount due for interest through 10/31/2011: $ 1,733.85
Daily accruing interest from and after 11/1/2011: $ 7.51

Daily accruing interest is calculated by the formula ($33,244.48 x 8.63%)/365.

9. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Note and the Mortgage, defendant is additionally obligated to plaintiff for reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in collection of the Note and prosecution of the herein complaint, in amounts as yet undetermined but still accruing.

10. Notwithstanding demand, Mr. Santos has failed, refused and neglected, and still fails, refuses and neglects to pay the amounts due to plaintiff.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays for judgment against defendant, as follows:

(A) Against defendant Francisco E. Santos, the principal sum of $31,310.63; plus accrued interest at the rate of 8.63% per annum to October 31, 2011 in the amount of $1,733.85; plus accrued interest thereon at the rate of 8.63% per annum from and after November 1, 2011, in the amount of $7.51 per day;

(B) Against defendant Francisco E. Santos, for reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit; and for other costs allowed pursuant to the terms of the Note and the Mortgage;

(C) Against defendant Francisco E. Santos, for interest on the total of all amounts included in the judgment sought by this complaint, at the maximum rate provided by law from the date of judgment;

(D) Against defendant Francisco E. Santos, ordering that if the judgment is not paid in full within three months after its date, Lot 373-3-5-1 shall be sold in accordance with law and the proceeds of said sale, after deducting expenses thereof, shall be applied to payment of the balance due upon judgment, and for reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit, and other costs allowed by the Note and the Mortgage; and

(E) For such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.

DATED, this 31ST day of October, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
/s/ BRUCE L. MAILMAN, F0153
Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

Notice of Zoning Board Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use Application – The Mission Connection Ministry is proposing to operate a Church on lots 003 H 23 and 003 H 28 in Susupe. This area is located behind Music And store on Beach Road and is zoned as Village Residential.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.
1. None

E. New Business.
1. None

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

Please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661 for any questions. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

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Air-condition Rooms • Telephone and Cable-Ready
$320-$370/mo. Includes Water • Furnished
Back-Up Power Generator • Free Trash Collection
Quite, Safe & Peaceful Neighborhood
Spectacular Ocean & Mountain Scenic View

3-Bedroom House or Commercial Building

Approximately 1,500 square feet
1-1/2 Bathroom • $550 Per Month

We are located on Pila Drive, Sadog Tasi.
Call Jess at 286-4418 to see the unit available
or call Irene at our office at 322-4530/483-4532.

"Working Hard To Provide You The Comfort and Safety You Deserve"

Off the Wall

AP

A mother and child point a small painting by art student Andrzej Sobiepan at the café of the National Museum in Wroclaw, Poland on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012.

Polish art student hangs own painting in museum

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Art student Andrzej Sobiepan didn't want to wait decades for his work to appear in museums. So he took matters in his own hands, covertly hanging one of his paintings in a major Polish gallery.

By Wednesday, the young artist was getting plenty of attention after a nationwide TV channel reported on his stunt at the National Museum in the southwestern city of Wroclaw. He told reporters he hoped galleries would give more exhibition space to young artists as a result.

"I decided that I will not wait 30 or 40 years for my works to appear at a place like this," Sobiepan told TVN24. "I want to benefit from them in the here and now."

Sobiepan, a Wroclaw Fine Arts Academy student whose last name means "his own master," said he was inspired by the elusive British graffiti artist known only as Banksy. His own painting is small, white and green, and partly uses swine leather to show a drooping acacia leaf.

On Dec. 10, Sobiepan put it up in a room with contemporary Polish art when a guard at the museum was looking the other way. Museum officials didn't notice the new painting for three days.

Museum director Mariusz Hermansdorfer told TVN24 on Wednesday that the action revealed some security breaches, but that he also considered it a "witty artistic happening."

"It has shown that the young generation of artists, unlike their predecessors, wants to see their works in museums," Hermansdorfer said.

The museum has kept the painting on display—in its cafe. It will be offered for sale at Poland's biggest charity auction on Sunday.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Jan. 4 birthday runs in the family in Ohio

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—Jan. 4 birthdays have been running in one Ohio family for four generations. Richard Stiff of the Toledo area turned 65 on Wednesday. The day is also the 34th birthday of his daughter, Julia Gonyer, and it's the first birthday of Gonyer's daughter, Kourtney. The string began with Stiff's late father, Marshall Stiff, who was born on Jan. 4, 1924. The Blade newspaper reports that some people can't believe it when they learn about all the birthdays on the same day in one family. Others have said it's kind of creepy. All four family members arrived on Jan. 4 through unscheduled, natural births. The birthdays have traditionally been celebrated with one cake and one singing of "Happy Birthday."

Cops: Man tried to use $1M bill at NC Walmart

LEXINGTON, N.C. (AP)—Do you have change for a million-dollar bill? Police say a North Carolina man insisted his million-dollar note was real when he was buying $476 worth of items at a Walmart. Investigators told the Winston-Salem Journal that 53-year-old Michael Fuller tried to buy a vacuum cleaner, a microwave oven and other items. Store employees called police after his insistence that the bill was legit, and Fuller was arrested. The largest bill in circulation is $100. The government stopped making bills of up to $10,000 in 1969. Fuller was charged with attempting to obtain property by false pretense and uttering a forged instrument. He is in jail on a $17,500 bond.

Idaho spud truck rolls on side, mashing potatoes

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP)—A spud-hauling truck has rolled onto its side in Idaho, dropping its cargo like a hot potato. The Idaho State Police says the truck driven by 23-year-old Newman Giles of Rigby crashed Tuesday in Idaho Falls, spilling the potatoes across two Interstate 15 exit ramps. It was hauling a 48-foot farm-bed trailer with the spuds at the time. A spokesman at Eagle Farms says the potatoes were being brought to a plant when the trailer's tires caught the edge of the road, causing the truck to tip on its side in slow motion. The state police say Giles and a passenger were wearing seat belts and were not injured.

Firefighters pull back in fear of venomous snakes

VIENNA (AP)—Hoses weren't the only things uncoiling at this blaze. Austrian firefighters answering an alarm found something their training didn't prepare them for—a trove of highly venomous snakes. Fire department spokesman Franz Resperger says 85 fire fighters beat a hasty retreat from a burning barn east of Vienna after a neighbor told them to watch out for the reptiles kept by the owner inside. The blaze was finally quenched Tuesday after an expert summoned to the scene captured seven snakes, including an Indian cobra and two Australian taipans—all packing potent venom that Resperger said there was no antidote for in Austria. He says one of the reptiles was nearly 2 meters—over 2 yards—long.

Run ends for Ohio man's Secret Santa bearing pies

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A Secret Santa has told an Ohio man not to expect any more pecan pies, which arrived mysteriously for 35 years. Willis Welch says the pie that showed up at his Columbus home during the recent holiday season was accompanied by a note that said, "It has been a great ride." The person who signed it "Pie Fairy" also wrote: "My wings are shorter now and I am a little too fat to fly anymore. But I still love you!!" The Columbus Dispatch reports that the 87-year-old Welch still doesn't know who was sending his perennial pastries, though whoever did it knew him well enough to know of his fondness for pecan pies. Welch believes the first one came in 1976. His two daughters have denied any involvement.

Science & Technology

Now you see it, now you don't: Time cloak created

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's one thing to make an object invisible, like Harry Potter's mythical cloak. But scientists have made an entire event impossible to see. They have invented a time masker.

Think of it as an art heist that takes place before your eyes and surveillance cameras. You don't see the thief strolling into the museum, taking the painting down or walking away, but he did. It's not just that the thief is invisible—his whole activity is.

What scientists at Cornell University did was on a much smaller scale, both in terms of events and time. It happened so quickly that it's not even a blink of an eye. Their time cloak lasts an incredibly tiny fraction of a fraction of a second. They hid an event for 40 trillionths of a second, according to a study appearing in Thursday's edition of the journal Nature.

AP

In this 2011 illustration, provided by Cornell University, scientists demonstrate how they have created, a new invisibility technique that doesn't just cloak an object–like in Harry Potter books and movies–but masks an entire event.

We see events happening as light from them reaches our eyes. Usually it's a continuous flow of light. In the new research, however, scientists were able to interrupt that flow for just an instant.

Other newly created invisibility cloaks fashioned by scientists move the light beams away in the traditional three dimensions. The Cornell team alters not where the light flows but how fast it moves, changing in the dimension of time, not space.

They tinkered with the speed of beams of light in a way that would make it appear to surveillance cameras or laser security beams that an event, such as an art heist, isn't happening.

Another way to think of it is as if scientists edited or erased a split second of history. It's as if you are watching a movie with a scene inserted that you don't see or notice. It's there in the movie, but it's not something you saw, said study co-author Moti Fridman, a physics researcher at Cornell.

The scientists created a lens of not just light, but time. Their method splits light, speeding up one part of light and slowing down another. It creates a gap and that gap is where an event is masked.

"You kind of create a hole in time where an event takes place," said study co-author Alexander Gaeta, director of Cornell's School of Applied and Engineering Physics. "You just don't know that anything ever happened."

This is all happening in beams of light that move too fast for the human eye to see. Using fiber optics, the hole in time is created as light moves along inside a fiber much thinner than a human hair. The scientists shoot the beam of light out, and then with other beams, they create a time lens that splits the light into two different speed beams that create the effect of invisibility by being too fast or too slow. The whole work is a mess of fibers on a long table and almost looks like a pile of spaghetti, Fridman said.

It is the first time that scientists have been able to mask an event in time, a concept only first theorized by Martin McCall, a professor of theoretical optics at Imperial College in London. Gaeta, Fridman and others at Cornell, who had already been working on time lenses, decided to see if they could do what McCall envisioned.

It only took a few months, a blink of an eye in scientific research time.

"It is significant because it opens up a whole new realm to ideas involving invisibility," McCall said.

Researchers at Duke University and in Germany's Karlsruhe Institute of Technology have made progress on making an object appear invisible spatially. The earlier invisibility cloak work bent light around an object in three dimensions.

Between those two approaches, the idea of invisibility will work its way into useful technology, predicts McCall, who wasn't part of either team.

The science is legitimate, but it's still only a fraction of a second, added City College of New York physicist Michio Kaku, who specializes in the physics of science fiction.

"That's not enough time to wander around Hogwarts," Kaku wrote in an email. "The next step therefore will be to increase this time interval, perhaps to a millionth of a second. So we see that there's a long way to go before we have true invisibility as seen in science fiction."

Gaeta said he thinks he can get make the cloak last a millionth of a second or maybe even a thousandth of a second. But McCall said the mathematics dictate that it would take too big a machine—about 18,600 miles long—to make the cloak last a full second.

"You have to start somewhere and this is a proof of concept," Gaeta said.

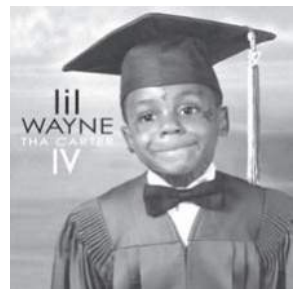
Still, there are practical applications, Gaeta and Fridman said. This is a way of adding a packet of information to high-speed data unseen without interrupting the flow of information. But that may not be a good thing if used for computer viruses, Fridman conceded.

There may be good uses of this technology, Gaeta said, but "for some reason people are more interested in the more illicit applications."

Life & Style

Adele's '21' is the top-selling album of 2011

By RANDY LEWIS
LOS ANGELES TIMES



LOS ANGELES—To the surprise of virtually no one, Adele's "21" is officially the top-selling album of 2011, with a final tally of 5.82 million copies, while the British soul singer's single "Rolling in the Deep" was the year's bestselling song with 5.81 million copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan's year-end sales report issued Wednesday.

Adele's album entered the chart at No. 1 in February and has never dropped out of the Top 10. This week marks the CD's 14th nonconsecutive week as the nation's top-selling album.

Michael Buble's latecomer holiday entry "Christmas" was the No. 2-selling album of the year with nearly 2.5 million copies, followed by Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" (2.1 million), Lil Wayne's "Tha Carter IV" (1.9 million) and Jason Aldean's "My Kinda Party" (1.6 million).

Industry wide perhaps the best news in the year-end figures is that album sales increased over the previous year for the first time since 2004, up 1 percent to 330.6 million units, compared with 326.2 million in 2010. Overall music sales, including albums, singles, music video and digital tracks, increased nearly 7 percent in 2011 compared with a year earlier, surpassing 1.6 billion units for the first time since Nielsen SoundScan began tracking retail sales in 1991.

"There's certainly more good news than we've had in the past six years," said Dave Bakula, senior vice president of analytics entertainment for Nielsen SoundScan. "It's due to a lot of things that are going on out there.

"It's easy to talk about numbers when you've got an album like Adele's '21' driving the industry for 45 of the 52 weeks of the year," he said. "Her numbers are amazing: she's sold more albums than anyone since 2004. Having an album like that out there drives a lot of interest on a weekly basis."

Nielsen SoundScan, however, tracks unit sales, not dollar figures, making it harder to determine whether revenue continued its downward trend in recent years. One of the big stories of the year was Amazon.com's decision to sell Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" for 99 cents as part of a promotion for its cloud music service, significantly helping the collection log sales of more than 1 million copies during its first week of release.

"Sales by some of the big box retailers had lower prices than we've ever seen in the past and that did create some downward pressure on pricing," Bakula said. But you can look at the Top 100 or even the Top 200 on iTunes and find nearly all of those being sold for $1.29 as compared to the standard price of 99 cents for a digital download in years past.

"We're also seeing more deluxe and super deluxe editions of albums, and those are selling for higher prices. I can't say anything more than anecdotally, but I've got to think that digital pricing is drifting upward," Bakula said.

The strength of the digital music component also was reflected in a nearly 20 percent jump of digital album sales from 2010 to 2011, which helped offset a 5.7 percent drop in sales of physical albums for the same period. Last year was the first in which any song registered more than 5 million paid digital downloads, a feat accomplished by Adele and LMFAO.

Digital albums, including "track equivalent albums" (a category that counts 10 individual digital tracks by an artist as an album), for the first time constituted more than half of all album sales, at 50.3 percent, a number Bakula called "the digital tipping point."

Rounding out the Top 10-selling albums were Mumford & Sons' "Sigh No More" (1.4 million), Drake's "Take Care" (1.3 million), Justin Bieber's "Under the Mistletoe" (1.3 million, just 2,000 copies behind Drake's album), Jay-Z and Kanye West's "The Throne" (1.2 million) and Lady Antebellum's "Own the Night" (1.2 million, about 30,000 copies behind "The Throne").

The remainder of the Top 10 digital songs behind "Rolling in the Deep" are LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem" (5.5 million), Katy Perry's "E.T." (4.8 million), Maroon 5's "Moves Like Jagger" (4.1 million) and Pitbull's "Give Me Everything" (3.9 million). At No. 6 was Foster the People's "Pumped Up Kicks" (3.8 million) followed by Adele's "Someone Like You" (3.8 million), Cee Lo Green's "Forget You" (3.7 million totaling the explicit and clean versions), Nicki Minaj's "Super Bass" (3.6 million) and Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" (3.5 million).

E-book sales top 5 million for James Patterson

NEW YORK (AP)—The sales machine that is James Patterson continues in the e-book era.

The Hachette Book Group announced Wednesday that e-book sales for the prolific novelist now top 5 million, with 2 million coming in just the past seven months.

Patterson hit the 1 million mark for e-books in July 2010, making him among the first authors to reach that milestone. Patterson also is thriving on paper. Hachette noted that hardcover and paperback sales for his work in 2011 topped 4.7 million copies, as tracked by Nielsen BookScan, which compiles around 75 percent of the non e-book market.

Patterson

Patterson publishes several books a year and his best-sellers, many of them written with others, including "Kill Alex Cross" and "Now You See Her."

NY grocery changes course on Alec Baldwin TV ads

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP)—A New York-based supermarket chain has had a change of heart about grounding Alec Baldwin as a spokesman because of his antics aboard an American Airlines flight.

Baldwin

Wegmans Food Markets said Wednesday it will continue running television ads featuring Baldwin after being inundated with "hundreds and hundreds of tweets, emails, and phone calls" in support of the actor.

"We regret ending the Alec Baldwin holiday commercials one week earlier than planned in response to a couple of dozen complaints," Wegmans said in a statement. "We have decided to run the commercials again, effective immediately. Clearly, many more people support Alec."

Wegmans revealed Tuesday it had pulled the ads after drawing customer criticism about Baldwin's behavior. He was removed from a New York-bound flight at Los Angeles International Airport on Dec. 6 for refusing to turn off his cellphone.

The commercials, which were filmed for the 2010 holiday season, were supposed to run again for three weeks last month but were pulled a week early after Baldwin's airline dustup.

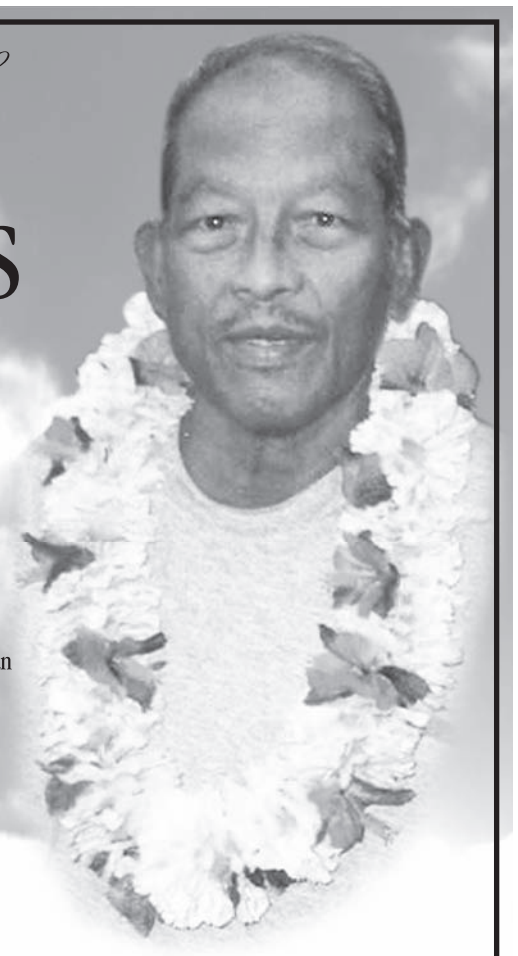
Baldwin was hired for the ads after he mentioned that his mother, who lives in the Syracuse area, is a loyal Wegmans customer.

"We appreciate Wegmans' decision and the sentiment expressed in their statement," Baldwin publicist Matthew Hiltzik said.

Wegmans, a family owned business founded in Rochester in 1916, is credited with helping pioneer "one-stop shopping." It has 79 stores in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland and Massachusetts.

In Celebration of His New Life

Leon Inos Taisacan



Born to Life on March 14, 1940
Was called to his Eternal Life by our Dear Lord
on Monday, January 2, 2012

In His New Life, He now Joins His:
BELOVED WIFE: Lydia Atalig Taisacan
SON: Wilfred Atalig Taisacan
PARENTS: Juan Satur Taisacan and Ana Inos Taisacan
PARENTS-IN-LAW: Jose Camacho Atalig and Maria Barcinas Atalig

SISTERS & BROTHERS-IN-LAW:
Roy Schelling
August Barcinas & Ana Atalig
Maria Barcinas Atalig
Antonia Atalig Diaz
Manuel Barcinas Atalig
Juanita Barcinas Atalig

His Spirit and Memories will Live Forever in the Hearts of His:
CHILDREN:
Valintino Ronald A.Taisacan
Dennis A. & Geraldine Castrence Taisacan (Gydia Lynn, Deon, John Joseph & Ana Maria)
Caroline T. & Jose Manalo Cabrera (Lydine & Jachary Armando Arriola-Jaydine; Jose, & Lydicia)
Lillian T. & Kenneth Tenorio Indalecio (Kenneth Leon)

SPECIAL FRIEND: Juana Santos Crisostimo

SISTERS & BROTHERS-IN-LAW:
Carmen T. Schelling (Klaas)
Lourdes T. & Ignacio Manglona & Children
Ana T. & Joaquin Tyquenco & Children
Isabel N. & Manuel Candaso & Children

BROTHERS-IN-LAW:
Jose B. & Maria Cruz Atalig & Children
Fidel B. & Rufina Santos Atalig & Children

He is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and will be greatly missed by many friends.

Daily Mass is offered at 6:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral, Saipan and 6:00 a.m. at both San Isidro Church and San Francisco De Borja Church in Rota.

On Saturday, January 14, 2012, his remains will be escorted from the Rota Health Center to San Francisco De Borja Church at 5:00 a.m. for viewing and paying last respects.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 8:00a.m. followed by interment service at the San Jose Cemetery.

Your Thoughts and Prayers are Greatly Appreciated

From the Children and Family

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Friday, Jan. 6th through Thursday, Jan. 12th, 2012
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

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The Darkest Hour

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby
Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Director Chris Gorak (Right at Your Door) teams with producer Timur Bekmambetov for this tense apocalyptic thriller centering on the fight for survival waged by five youths who find themselves stranded in Moscow during an alien invasion. As the invisible extraterrestrials absorb all of Earth's energy and life forms, finding a means of escaping the unstoppable attackers becomes a seemingly impossible task. Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, and Max Minghella star.

We Bought A Zoo

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG

Synopsis
A widower (Matt Damon) purchases a zoo in order to bring his family back together in this Twentieth Century Fox adaptation of Benjamin Mee's autobiographical memoir. Cameron Crowe (Almost Famous) writes and directs based on a script by Aline Brosh McKenna.

★ ★ ★

The Adventure of Tintin

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis
Adventure • Rated PG

Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara
Thriller • Rated R

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Jason Lee
Children's/family • Rated G

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Robert Downey, Jr. Jude Law
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13

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Meryl Streep says playing Thatcher was daunting

LONDON (AP)—She's a double Oscar winner with a knack for accents, but Meryl Streep says playing Margaret Thatcher was a challenge—although her own experience helped her understand the struggles faced by Britain's first female prime minister.

Streep is transformed into the divisive politician who reshaped Britain in "The Iron Lady," which had its European premiere in London on Wednesday, just across the River Thames from the Houses of Parliament.

"It was extremely daunting, because I'm from New Jersey," Streep said in an interview ahead of the event. "And yet as an outsider, I felt something of what she might have felt."

Streep, who won Academy Awards for "Kramer Vs. Kramer" and "Sophie's Choice," said her youthful experience as one of a handful of women at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire helped her understand Thatcher's isolation. In 1970, Streep spent a term as an exchange student at the men-only college, which became coeducational in 1972.

"There were 60 of us and 6,000 men, and I had a little flashback to that moment," Streep said. "And so a little bit of my emotional work was done for me."

Streep, 62, has been nominated for a Golden Globe and looks likely to get a 17th Oscar nomination for her spookily accurate performance as Thatcher, who led Britain from 1979 until 1990.

As prime minister, Thatcher fought a war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands, saw the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall and the implosion of communism and was branded the Iron Lady by Soviet journalists for her steely resolve.

She presided over the decline of Britain's industrial might and trade union power and the birth of a free-market culture with new winners and many new losers.

That historical drama is only glimpsed in "The Iron Lady," which depicts the now 86-year-old Thatcher, widowed after the death of husband Denis (Jim Broadbent), looking back on her life as a provincial grocer's daughter rising to the top of a Conservative Party dominated by wealthy men.

Streep said while the film has been called a political biopic, "I was interested in it precisely because it wasn't really that."

"It's a subjective imagining," she said. "It's not the God's-eye-view chronicling this side, that side, the politics of it. It's a very deep look at a whole life—from the end of it."

"The Iron Lady" is more a domestic drama than a political one, but Thatcher remains a polarizing figure and the film has been criticized by her enemies and allies alike. Foes feel it is too sympathetic, while supporters and friends dislike its depiction of the former leader as a frail old woman with dementia.

Former Conservative Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said the film "has a rather ghoulish quality about it."

"All the flashback scenes show a woman suffering from a form of dementia, but that lady is very much alive," he told the Evening Standard newspaper. "That should have given them pause to wait."

Streep

Director Phyllida Lloyd ("Mamma Mia!") has defended the film's approach. The script by Abi Morgan ("Shame") was partly inspired by a book by the politician's daughter Carol Thatcher in which she described her mother's mental decline.

Streep said the criticisms were misguided.

"If Margaret Thatcher suffered from a lung problem and I coughed, or if she had something wrong with her legs and I limped, no one would scream," she said. "The particular stigma attached to mental frailty in our culture speaks more about the person who's saying it's shameful.

"Is it shameful? I don't think it is. I don't think things need to be hidden away."

Streep is also fascinated by the venom Thatcher provoked—she's still either loved or loathed by most Britons—and the film gently asks viewers to consider whether the fact that she is a woman played a part in the strong responses.

"She was called the most hated woman in Britain because of policies that lots of people who are still in the political world helped her construct, and they don't endure the same hatred," Streep said. "She was hated for her hair and her handbag and her clothes and her manner and the fact that she changed her voice.

"It was really outsized, the bloodlust, and that's interesting."

Streep said the film's most provocative idea is that it asks audiences to regard this iconic political figure as human—just like ourselves.

"I do think we have historically looked at our own lives through the bodies of kings and queens and important people," she said. "Is 'Hamlet' really about the prince and his princeliness, or is it about his existence? Is 'King Lear' really about a grumpy old man who used to be a despot, or is it about existence?

"That's certainly how I went into it, to find me in this story. And my friends, and my mother—women of that generation who lived through a change in the way women were regarded and their place in society."

5 *favorite Meryl Streep performances*

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

LOS ANGELES (AP) — How do you choose the best Meryl Streep performances? It's like trying to decide what kind of ice cream is best — it's pretty much always going to be great, and while there may be a couple flavors you don't like as much, you're never going to say no to ice cream. Usually, you'll actively seek it out, and you'll be glad you did.

That tortured metaphor helps set up an analysis of Streep's staggeringly esteemed career, with her latest transformative wonder—her portrayal of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady"—in theaters this weekend. Weirdly, Streep finds herself in the role of sentimental favorite as a potential Oscar nominee; while she has more nominations than any other actor or actress in Academy Awards history with 16, she hasn't won since "Sophie's Choice" nearly 30 years ago.

So instead of choosing her "best" performances, I'll go with my five favorites. Dig in:

■ **"Kramer vs. Kramer"** (1979): It's a supporting role, one which earned her the first of her two Academy Awards—the film won five Oscars total, including best picture—but she is completely in control of every scene in which she appears. This and "The Deer Hunter" provided early glimpses of the greatness to come, but here she's in the tricky position of playing someone we should hate from the start: a housewife who walks out on her workaholic husband (Dustin Hoffman) and their young son (Justin Henry). As a wife and mother of a little boy myself now, it seems unfathomable. But Streep turns a character who could have been a monster into a fully realized woman with needs and complexities, and somehow makes her a sympathetic figure.

■ **"Sophie's Choice"** (1982): The accent, the agony: This performance set the standard for Streep's wholly convincing immersive abilities, and it earned her the Academy Award for best actress. As a beautiful Polish refugee with a haunting secret, Streep is both beguiling and heartbreaking. This is a larger-than-life figure from William Styron's novel but Streep makes her tantalizingly real in delicate ways. And the moment when she has to make the choice of the film's title is just devastating. That's partly because of the matter-of-fact way it's shot and edited, but mainly it's because of her reaction—the vivid transformation she undergoes within just a few minutes.

■ **"Adaptation."** (2002): What makes this performance so irresistible is that Streep isn't so obviously "acting." She lets loose, takes chances and genuinely seems to be enjoying herself. She's smack in the middle of writer Charlie Kaufman and director Spike Jonze's giddy, trippy funhouse, playing writer Susan Orlean, whose book "The Orchid Thief" stumped the real-life Kaufman (in real life and as played by Nicolas Cage) when it came time for him to turn it into a screenplay. Susan herself is fascinated with an orchid breeder played by an Oscar-winning Chris Cooper. While she's a serious author full of insecurities at the film's start—she doesn't know how to feel passionately about anything — the way she eventually chooses to seize upon pleasure and love is disarming.

■ **"The Devil Wears Prada"** (2006): Streep is just withering here. That monologue about the significance of the color cerulean alone makes this movie worth watching. But the entire performance is a delightful reminder that, when given the chance, she can be a master of biting comedy. As Miranda Priestly, a towering, Anna Wintour-style fashion magazine editor, Streep could have been a cartoony caricature of high style and low manners. Instead, Streep finds the subtlety within her character's cruelty and brings her brilliantly brings her to life. She steals the entire thing away from young Anne Hathaway, who has the benefit of youth and Patricia Field as her costume designer and who is, theoretically, the star.

■ **"Mamma Mia!"** (2008): This may seem like a weird choice. It did for Streep, as well. But while this ABBA-palooza can be cringe-inducing, Streep is just radiant. "Adaptation" suggested what it looks like when she gets a little goofy, but here we finally get a chance to see her let loose entirely, and she's clearly having a blast. Watching the woman who is considered the greatest actress of our time writhing around in overalls on top of a barn or belting out numbers in a sparkly, spandex jumpsuit and platform boots is a hoot. Streep was a fan of the Broadway show, which is obvious. And as she'd demonstrated in bits and pieces in previous films—including Robert Altman's "A Prairie Home Companion"—she really can sing. We're still searching for that elusive thing Streep doesn't do well.

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2011 photo, Nick Cannon arrives at the third annual TeenNick HALO awards in Los Angeles, Cannon is spending the first week of the new year in the hospital, with wife Mariah Carey by his side.

Mariah Carey says Nick Cannon has kidney failure

NEW YORK (AP)—Nick Cannon is spending the first week of the new year in the hospital, with wife Mariah Carey by his side. Carey tweeted that Cannon is suffering from "mild kidney failure." His representative confirmed Cannon's hospitalization. He is in Aspen, Colo., where he and Carey were vacationing.

Carey posted a picture on her website of a miserable-looking Cannon in a hospital bed as she lay beside him. She asked for prayers and said Cannon's situation was "very painful." She later called it a "serious moment that's very tough on all of us."

The pair became the parents of twins—a boy and a girl—last year. Cannon is 31. His representative had no further information Wednesday about his condition, but said he is still hospitalized.

Trump unveils new 'Celebrity Apprentice' crew

NEW YORK (AP)—Mob boss widow Victoria Gotti, singer Clay Aiken and IndyCar champ Michael Andretti are on tap for the next edition of NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice."

Host Donald Trump announced the new batch of contenders on Wednesday's "Today" show. They also include "Real Housewives of New Jersey" cast member Teresa Guidice, comedian Lisa Lampanelli, former Miss Universe Dayana Mendoza, rock star Dee Snider and "America Chopper" star Paul Teutul Sr.

Other contenders include radio host Adam Carolla, comedian Arsenio Hall, singer-actress Aubrey O'Day and magician Penn Jillette.

Rounding out the rivals are model Cheryl Tiegs, singer Debbie Gibson, "Star Trek" star George Takei, singer Tia Carrere, actress-model Patricia Velasquez and "Incredible Hulk" Lou Ferrigno.

"Celebrity Apprentice" returns for its new season Feb. 12.

'Potter," X-Men," Apes' vie for visual Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Academy Award for visual effects is shaping up into a showdown among such heroes as Harry Potter, the X-Men, the Transformers and Captain America.

Oscar organizers Wednesday announced 10 finalists for the visual-effects prize. Among the contenders are "Captain America: The First Avenger"; "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2"; "Transformers: Dark of the Moon"; and "X-Men: First Class."

Also in the running: "Hugo"; "Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol"; "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides"; "Real Steel"; "Rise of the Planet of the Apes"; and "The Tree of Life."

The academy's visual-effects branch will watch excerpts from each film and select five nominees, which will be announced along with other Oscar nominations Jan. 24. The Oscar ceremony is set for Feb. 26.

Actress Zooey Deschanel files for divorce in LA

In this July 10, 2011 file photo, actress Zooey Deschanel, left, and her husband, musician Ben Gibbard arrive at the premiere of the animated feature film "Winnie the Pooh" at The Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, Calif.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zooey Deschanel has filed for divorce from her rocker husband of two years.

The actress filed for divorce in Los Angeles on Dec. 27 from Ben Gibbard, citing irreconcilable differences. The former couple announced they had broken up in November.

The 31-year-old actress stars in the Fox sitcom "New Girl" and was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for her performance. Gibbard is the lead singer of the rock band Death Cab for Cutie, which released the album "Codes and Keys" in May.

Deschanel and Gibbard were married in September 2009 and have no children together.

Deschanel's publicist has said that the couple's split was "amicable."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Jackman plans Broadway return as Houdini

NEW YORK (AP)—Hugh Jackman liked his record-setting Broadway run so much this winter that he's handcuffing himself to a future musical about Harry Houdini. Producers said Wednesday that Jackman, best known as the hairy Wolverine in "The X-Men" franchise, will star as the famed illusionist in "Houdini." It's scheduled to reach Broadway during the 2013-14 season. Academy Award and six-time Emmy Award winner Aaron Sorkin of "West Wing" fame will write the story, and three-time Academy Award and four-time Grammy Award winner Stephen Schwartz of "Wicked" fame will write music and lyrics. Jackman's one-man, 10-week Broadway concert show closed Sunday at the Broadhurst Theatre after having earned more than $2 million in its final week. It was the highest weekly gross recorded by the Shubert Organization, which owns the Broadhurst and 16 other Broadway theaters.

PBS chief asks viewers to support public TV funds

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The head of PBS wants viewers to oppose Mitt Romney's call to end funding of public broadcasting. PBS chief Paula Kerger said Wednesday that she recognizes the United States has to make tough budget decisions but defended PBS as an effective public-private partnership. Kerger says that while she can make the argument, elected officials listen to their constituents. Romney has criticized public funding for PBS while campaigning for the GOP presidential nomination. He has said he doesn't intend to "kill Big Bird" of "Sesame Street" but that public TV shows will have to become ad-supported. Kerger says that federal rules governing public broadcasting prohibit commercials. She adds that commercial TV channels are notably different than PBS and contrasts History Channel's "American Pickers" with a Ken Burns' documentary.

Antiques dealers to compete on PBS reality show

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—PBS is giving the genteel "Antiques Roadshow" a fierce partner with "Market Wars," an antiques-hunt reality competition show. PBS announced Wednesday that the 20-episode series from the producers of "Antiques Roadshow" will send professional antiques dealers in a nationwide hunt for the best vintage bargain. The dealer whose item snares the biggest profit at auction wins. The producers of "Market Wars" promise the show will expose the "real, rough and tumble competition" in the antiques marketplace. The series will begin next summer, teaming on Monday nights with "Antiques Roadshow." The debut date was not announced for "Market Wars," produced by public TV station WGBH Boston. The two series make a good match but viewers need not worry that PBS will be overtaken by reality shows, PBS chief Paula Kerger told the Television Critics Association.

NY Philharmonic names new executive director

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Philharmonic has named a new executive director to tackle huge financial shortfalls at the nation's oldest orchestra. Orchestra officials announced Wednesday that Matthew VanBesien will succeed Zarin Mehta (MAY'-tuh) as the Philharmonic's top administrator. The 42-year-old Missouri native is currently the managing director of Australia's Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. VanBesien started his music career playing French horn for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. Mehta, brother of conductor Zubin Mehta, will retire at the end of the season as the Philharmonic's top executive. The orchestra founded in 1842 faces $24 million in unfunded pension liabilities, recurring deficits topping $1 million and the renovation of its artistic home, Avery Fisher Hall. VanBesien is credited with reversing the financial fortunes of the Houston Symphony several years ago as its chief administrator.

Girl who thinks she's abused gets scolded by fellow teens

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR READERS: Yesterday I printed letters from adults in response to a letter from "Emotionally Abused in California" (Nov. 2), the 15-year-old who felt her mother was treating her unfairly. Today we'll hear from teenage readers:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl. My mom showed me the letter from "Emotionally Abused" and I almost died! Her mom sounds just like mine. I am not allowed to wear clothing that shows too much skin or get into a car with a teenage boy. I don't have cable TV. I have to do my own laundry, clean my room, cook dinner and hem my own jeans.

Every night our entire family sits down for dinner. My parents always know my plans when I'm out with my friends, and I go to church every Sunday—with the occasional groan. I'm not the perfect daughter, but I'm glad I'm being raised with integrity, responsibility and a whole lot of chores.

COOPERATING TEEN IN NEW JERSEY

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: From one teen to another: I have heard your same story from friends a thousand times. You're not being treated like a criminal. Your mom is doing you a huge favor. She's preparing you for the real world by making you pay for your own things. She's got high expectations if she thinks you can get through college.

And about your friends, she just wants to know who they are. She's not telling you no, right? She's a single mom, and she's trying to protect you.

You need to be easier on her and try to see things through her eyes. Not everything she does is an attack on you—in fact, it's the opposite.

FELLOW CALIFORNIA TEEN

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm an 18-year-old girl and I have never been in trouble. I attend a private school where modesty is the dress code policy. To pay for tuition to this school, I work every afternoon during the school year and full-time during the summer. I'm expected to pay for my own clothes, cellphone bill and haircuts out of my allowance. If I can't afford something, I don't buy it.

As long as I live with my parents, I will abide by their rules. My parents love me very much and have my best interests at heart. "Emotionally Abused" should have respect for her mother and be thankful for the many things she has.

MONTANA TEEN

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm also a 15-year-old Catholic girl. "Emotionally Abused" should be grateful she can attend church because it means we have religious freedom in our country. She is going to private school, which means her mother loves her enough to put her daughter's needs ahead of her own. She needs to rethink who is being unreasonable.

TEEN IN FLORIDA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After we read the letter from "Emotionally Abused," my brother and I were laughing to the point of tears! I would like to say the following to her: Our mom makes my brother (who's also 15) and me go to church every Sunday AND Wednesday. Mom home-schools us, thus making her teacher, principal and mother all in one. I'll be 17 in January and I still can't date.

Mom checks my computer regularly, and I'm not allowed to go to chat rooms. My brother and I have to set the table and eat with her every night. As for visiting Dad, I wish we could see ours every week. Unfortunately, he's deployed overseas.

In conclusion: DEAL WITH IT! Your mom isn't being unreasonable; she's looking out for you. Mothers like yours are few and far between. What hurts you, hurts her. If she didn't love you, she wouldn't act the way she does. Abby's right when she says one day you'll look back and thank her. My brother and I already thank ours.

LAUGHING SIBS IN NORTH CAROLINA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR READERS: To read a longer version of this column, go to DearAbby.com.

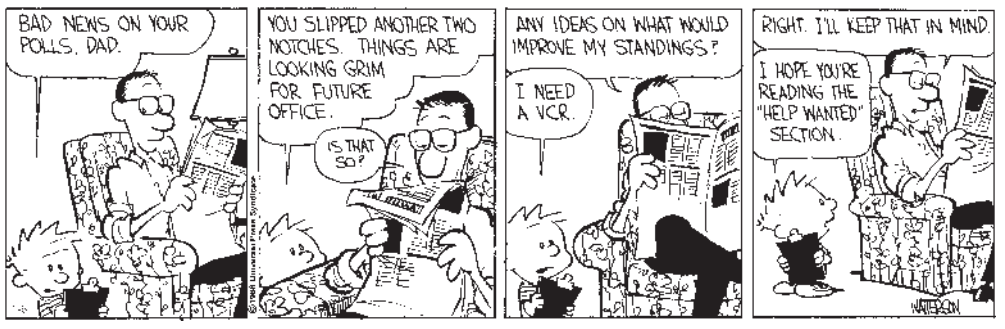
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BAD NEWS ON YOUR POLLS, DAD.
YOU SLIPPED ANOTHER TWO NOTCHES. THINGS ARE LOOKING GRIM FOR FUTURE OFFICE.
IS THAT SO?
ANY IDEAS ON WHAT WOULD IMPROVE MY STANDINGS?
I NEED A VCR.
RIGHT. I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
I HOPE YOU'RE READING THE "HELP WANTED" SECTION.
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

SOMETIMES I WONDER...
I WONDER WHAT LIFE WOULD BE LIKE WITHOUT YOU
WOULD I BE HAPPIER?
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
JIM DAVIS 1-6
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS WHO'D LIKE TO CHRONICLE THEIR LIVES, TOO.
IF YOU DO WELL ON THIS, I BET YOU COULD GET MORE BUSINESS.
SO, SHOULD I MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD OR TELL WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?
GOOD LEGENDS ARE A BLEND OF BOTH... AND THEY PAY BETTER.
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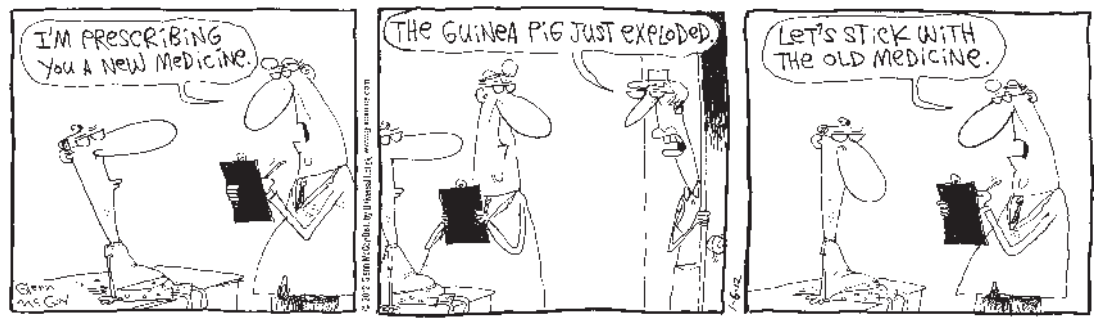
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M PRESCRIBING YOU A NEW MEDICINE.
THE GUINEA PIG JUST EXPLODED.
LET'S STICK WITH THE OLD MEDICINE.
Glenn McCoy
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1/6

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Balaam's beast
4 Practice boxing
8 Nitwit
12 Make pigeon noises
13 — Alto
14 Pressing need?
15 Attention-getting, and much more
17 Progeny
18 Boorish types
19 Sanders' franchise
21 Firmament
22 X-rated
26 Busy places
29 Pigs' digs
30 Literary collection
31 Wading bird
32 More, to Manuel
33 Item on stage
34 Lair
35 Car wash option
36 South American plain
37 Strikingly unusual
39 One-name R&B artist
40 Zeta follower
41 Chronicles
45 Con game
48 Foolishly impractical
50 Novelist Ferber
51 Magazine founder Eric
52 Eggs
53 Clothing store section
54 Dines
55 Buddhist sect

DOWN
1 In need of a massage
2 Protein bean
3 Last year's frosh
4 Ghosts
5 Sucker
6 Foreman foe
7 Pyrotechnician's supply
8 "Saturday Night Fever" genre
9 Raw rock
10 "Ulalume" writer
11 Conclusion
16 What attendance takers count
20 Saute
23 "GWTW" plantation
24 Aware of
25 Mob boss
26 Stash
27 Mountain goat
28 In — veritas
29 Lisa Simpson's instrument
32 Rhesus monkey
33 City north of Dallas
35 Humor
36 Bobcats' kin
38 33-Down's state
39 Upkeep (Abbr.)
42 The gamut
43 Not pretaped
44 Read cursorily
45 Height of fashion?
46 Praise in verse
47 Massachusetts cape
49 Actress Hagen

Solution time: 25 mins.

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V	I	I	■	T	R	A	P	E	Z	O	I	D
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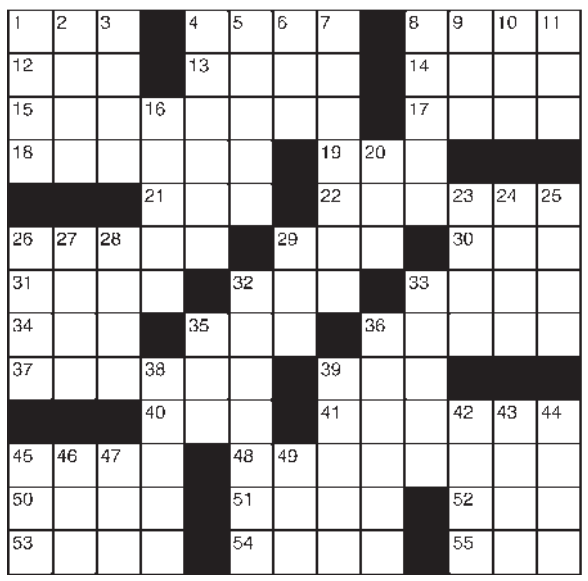
L	I	T	■	S	O	F	T	■	N	A	N	A

Yesterday's answer 1-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julie Chen, 42; Gabrielle Reece, 42; John Singleton, 44; Rowan Atkinson, 57.

Happy Birthday: Not everyone will agree with what you want to do, but if you remain low-key and work under the radar chipping away at your goals, you will reach the destination, proving your point and changing the way things are done. Updating what's old or near retirement will be a good place to start. Your numbers are 3, 5, 14, 27, 31, 36, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Talks will bring good results. Your ability to express your thoughts and make suggestions will captivate an audience. Relationships should be your prime concern. Do your best to establish responsibilities, as well as devotion and loyalty. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Spice up your life. Try new things and get involved in groups that offer a positive challenge and a chance to make long-lasting friendships. Incorporate your ideas into your work and you will become more efficient and valuable. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Hard work will pay off and start you moving in a direction that shows promise. Your reactions will come from the heart and your emotions will be difficult to contain. Be careful not to start an argument when dealing with personal matters. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll learn a lot from someone who has more experience. Cultivate a relationship with people who have as much to offer you as you do them. Someone from your past will pay back a debt or favor owed to you, if you ask. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will meet interesting people and open doors that can help you get ahead professionally by participating in a cause or organization you believe in. Love is in a high cycle, and romance should be scheduled for the evening hours. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be anxious about the things you need to complete. Use any means you can to help push you ahead of the competition. You can advance by staying motivated and using innovative ideas to get the work done. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You've got a handle on what needs to be done and the resources to pull it off. Socializing will allow you to show off your talents and attract both friendships and love relationships. A purchase will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put time and effort into your surroundings and finances. Home improvement projects will enhance your relationship with someone special and stabilize your personal life. Financial gain is in the stars; all you have to do is the work. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Emotional issues will surface and must be dealt with before they get out of control. You will avoid future dilemmas that can affect your personal life if you listen to what's being said and give an honest answer to whatever is asked. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't stop until you've taken care of your responsibilities. What you do will set an example and affect your reputation. You will excel by striving for perfection and completion. Good fortune is heading your way. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put more time and effort into your home, family and financial well-being. Set up a new budget that will reflect your goals and help you succeed. Love is highlighted, and a commitment can be made to someone special. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't give in to emotional blackmail. You have to weigh the pros and cons before you decide how to handle anyone stepping out of line. Diplomacy, understanding and remaining calm will bring the best results. Take action. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are debonair, outgoing, innovative and imaginative.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3	4		9	1		
6								5
	2			7			8	
9								2
		1				5		
8								3
	5			1			2	
7								6
		6	7		5	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	9	8	4	5	1	6	2
5	2	8	1	9	6	3	4	7
4	1	6	3	2	7	8	5	9
8	9	4	2	5	3	7	1	6
2	5	1	7	6	9	4	8	3
7	6	3	4	1	8	9	2	5
9	8	2	5	7	4	6	3	1
1	3	7	6	8	2	5	9	4
6	4	5	9	3	1	2	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE WORLD OF FERMENTATION **Solution: 10 letters**

L	S	B	S	A	V	K	M	D	A	E	M	A	E	E
N	A	A	W	B	L	A	C	K	G	A	R	L	I	C
P	O	C	U	H	K	M	A	N	U	T	K	L	C	N
S	U	I	T	E	E	J	U	B	O	C	D	I	H	A
I	R	L	T	O	R	A	Y	R	I	L	A	N	E	H
M	U	L	Q	A	B	K	T	P	A	G	I	A	E	N
U	F	U	A	U	R	A	R	R	R	G	R	V	S	E
K	T	S	P	W	E	A	C	A	U	I	Y	P	E	T
O	U	N	L	I	E	F	P	I	U	G	C	M	S	H
M	R	A	E	N	B	E	O	E	L	T	O	E	A	A
B	S	T	A	E	M	C	N	O	R	L	S	Y	L	N
U	H	T	D	Ⓗ	M	I	L	K	D	P	U	A	T	O
C	I	O	Ⓢ	N	A	E	B	Y	O	S	I	S	E	L
H	S	Ⓘ	P	R	D	E	Z	Y	M	O	L	O	G	Y
A	Ⓕ	R	G	S	B	A	S	E	D	E	T	L	A	M

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Bacillus Natto, Based, Beer, Black Garlic, Cheeses, Dairy, Dosa, Enhance, Ethanol, Fish, Foods, Fu-ru, Garum, Grain, Grape, Hops, Kajmak, Kombucha, Kumis, Kvas, Lactobacillus, Make, Malted, Mauby, Mead, Meats, Milk, Mold, Olive, Pickle, Preparation, Pulque, Rice, Salt, Sauerkraut, Soybeans, Tuna, Turshi, Vanilla, Wheat, Wine, Yeast, Yogurt, Zymology

Yesterday's Answer: Commanders

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
OCEANSIDE BAR N GRILL

Bartender (1)
- High School graduate
- Work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 1-2 years working experience
- Knowledgeable in mixing drinks and serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and beverages to customers
- Salary $5.05/Hourly

Interested applicants can email their resumes at Osidebarngrill@yahoo.com.

WANTED TO BUY

Used Cars Wanted.
2002 above, Toyota preferred,
Cash your car. Pls call 888-2205

FOR SALE

2007 Toyota Corolla, silver, excellent condition 53,900 miles. Please call 287-7676.

SAN JOSE MOTEL
ROOM FOR RENT
$100 - $300/mo (Single occupancy)
(Includes Internet & Cable TV, Hot Water, Ice Box), Semi Furnish
5 hour - $20.00 one (1) day - $30.00
Please call 285-8799; 235-8899

(5) Housekeeper

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years work experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language(s) a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. High School graduate or equivalent.

Please pick up and submit application at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's south wing security office. Applications must be submitted no later than January 10, 2012 to be considered.

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG Sky Chefs is seeking for the following positions to establish a list:

- 1 - Cook Helper
- 2 - Merchandise Delivery Driver
- 1 - Admin Clerk

Interested applicants must submit a court and traffic clearances, picture identification (i.e. driver's license or mayor's office picture identification), Social security card, passport or birth certificate.

We are located at the Tun Herman Pan Road and situated between the American Red Cross and the Historic Preservation Office.

spa Verde — DYNAMIC MASSAGE — Lagoon spa

SPA VERDE (DYNAMIC MASSAGE) & LAGOON SPA
PMB 329, Box 10002 Saipan MP 96950
Tel: 233-0233, 483-6668 • Fax: 233-6668
Email: lzmspn@hotmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: (2) Masseuse **Salary: $5.05 per hour**
Open date: December 30, 2011 **Closing date: January 09, 2012**

Recruitment object: U.S. citizens, green card holders, a person holding an umbrella permit with or without yet applied for CW-1, an immediate relative of a US citizen, person who has a parole or parole in place, or a person which qualify and have valid reason to apply CW-1.

Requirements: People with good character, warm & friendly, understanding & cooperative, and team player. Applicants must be able to work on weekends, holidays and night time shifts (till middle night). Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Russian speaking is a plus but not required.

Work hours are 40 hours per week. Work hours may be reduced, as the case may be on variable hours with a minimum of 32-36 hours per week. These may be also increased to more than 40 hours per week depending on our business demands. Overtime will be calculated by 1.5 times. Bi-weekly payroll. Company will provide training to qualified applicant.

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume (with current picture) to Sterling Corporation Office, inside Spa Verde, located in Garapan area, across Fiesta Hotel parking lot (next to Micro Beach Hotel).

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JC MARKETING, INC. (SAIPAN)
A Company oriented in Sales and Marketing of Consumer, Medical and Industrial Products, is seeking an experienced,

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (MEDICAL/INDUSTRIAL)

College Graduate or High School Diploma with 4 years work related experience required. Knowledge on Medical and Industrial products, computer literate, must have good verbal and written communication skills; ability to work independently and effectively, ability to establish good relationship with clients/customers; ability to provide creative ideas for the development of new products, ability to research medical and industrial products and prepare proposals. Be able to negotiate with vendor or potential sources. Must have reliable transportation, valid driver license and health certificate.

Interested applicant must submit resume via email at adminspn@jcmarketinginc.com or fax at 235-6336. Current Police Clearance must be submitted together with resume.

WHATZIT Solution: A splitting headache

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) is the community-based cancer support organization for the Northern Mariana Islands dedicated to eliminating cancer and saving lives by providing Advocacy, Awareness, Education, Services and HOPE for all its constituents

CCA is a non-profit organization managed by a 7 member Board of Directors who represents the diversity of the CNMI, CCA's operational funding is fully supported by contributions from corporations, families and individuals.

Position Description: Program Manager

As a Program Manager you will serve as an advocate for the CCA, supporting the CCA's mission and helping the organization better communicate who we are and what we do for the people who need us most, Eligible candidates need qualifications enabling them to fulfill the following key responsibilities:
- Manage budget and comply with stringent guidelines for program services offered to cancer patients and constituents
- Coordinate and collaborate with the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands CNMI Representative and the CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (CCCP) and effectively collaborate with the Program Manager to advocate and further our mission goals
- Develop, manage and grow revenue goals through multiple, fundraising events and collateral sales
- Assist the Event Chairperson(s) and participate in efficiently carrying out our signature fundraising event the "Marianas March Against Cancer", by attending Organization Committee and Team Captain meetings
- Mobilize and coordinate a CNMI community-wide volunteer working committee to implement the CNMI CCCP
- Develop and cultivate community partnerships/relationships and participate in appropriate coalitions
- Prepare/disseminate reports and publications such as an annual report, monthly performance report, bulletins, brochures, flyers, and various other promotional and educational cancer-related materials
- Assertively promote CCA Advocacy, initiatives, education and services to schools, worksites and community leaders to effectively build broad based support for our mission
- Seek monetary and in-kind donations from our business, community, private/public grants and endowments through direct solicitation, grant application and or bartering of goods and services
- Capture and track constituents served from our projects and services
- Comply and demonstrate ability to work within established budgets
- Effectively arrange monthly board meetings and other work as assigned by the President or his/her designee
- Plan ahead and always anticipate what is wanted and needed and be out in front in seeing that we meet our goals and responsibilities to the community.

Qualifications and Position Requirements:
- AA Degree and/or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Two years experience in sales, event management, customer service or volunteer management
- Demonstrated project management skills with high attention to detail and ability to multi task and delegate
- Demonstrated ability to inspire volunteers
- Strong relationship building skills
- Possess high energy, positive attitude
- Ability to maintain professional demeanor
- Must be a team player who can effectively work and interact with volunteers and the public
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated presentation skills
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite more specifically MS Publisher, Adobe Photoshop or comparable software, database and spreadsheet management, e-mail software and Internet browsers
- Travel to Rota, Tinian, regional and Stateside may be required and will be funded by CCA as Contracting Party
- Evening and weekend work required

Condition of Employment and Remuneration:
- Independent Contract Agreement - At Will, Exempt Contract Employment
- Contract remuneration $25,000,00 to $32,000,00 per annum depending on qualifications and experience.
- This position requires that you have a 2011-2012 CNMI Business License
- U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident-Hire Only
- Please submit cover letter and resume by the deadline of **January 16, 2012 at 5:00PM** to the CCA email at cca@ccamarianas.org, or hand deliver it to the CCA office located in Gualo Rai. Address your cover letter to Bud White, President of CCA, or to Maggie Camacho, Chair of the Selection Committee. For more information, please call our office at 682-0050

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

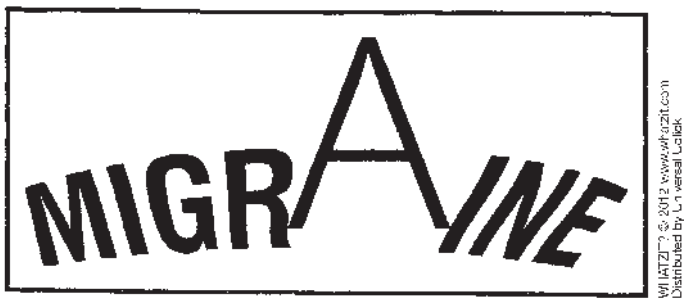
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
Job Vacancy No. 12-005

Opening Date: Thursday, 1/5/12 **Closing Date: Until Filled**

CHIEF ENGINEER
(Water and Wastewater)

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power and water utilities to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and wastewater utility to the island of Saipan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (Water and Wastewater) or his/her designee. The duties and responsibilities are as follows: Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required by CUC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CUC is under a Stipulated order of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case 08-0051 filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(Saipan has a population of about 50,000. It is adjacent Asia and about a 3-hour flight south of Tokyo.)

POSITIONS: One (1).

SALARY: $100,000.00 to $135,000.00 per annum; Un-classified; Un-graded.
(If hired from outside the Northern Mariana Islands, terms and conditions of the relocation costs will be negotiated. However, the accommodation shall not exceed $15,000.00 for moving to the islands and shall not exceed $10,000 for moving away from the islands.)

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree in civil, mechanical, or electrical engineering; Registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch; Experience of ten (10) or more years as a professional engineer. Demonstrate the following: Proven management and communication skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Competency and proficiency in overseeing major drinking water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, construction, and operation of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and in wastewater treatment, collection, and conveyance systems. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. You may also drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judicial Branch is seeking a qualified and reliable individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL – *Rota, Marshal Service Unit*

REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Candidate must possess a valid CNMI driver's license, current police and traffic clearances, and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Marshal on Saipan and be responsible for maintaining order in the courtroom during proceedings and prisoner processing; conduct inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibit the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; monitor court premises; assist in protection and transportation of jurors and other court personnel; have knowledge of and follow courtroom directives; process prisoner documentation; control unruly patrons, serve jury summonses and other court processes, and perform other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $16,652 for a one year contract.

Resumes, a complete application, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI should be addressed to the Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP, 96950. Applications can be obtained at the OPM offices. Completed applications may also be submitted at the Rota Superior Court in Sinapalo, Rota. Resumes and applications must be submitted by 5:00p.m. on January 27th, 2012. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can also be seen at http://www.justice.gov.mp

This project was supported by Grant Number 2011-DJ-BX-21 awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and the CNMI Government, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Corrections Program Office, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office for Victims of Crime and Violence Against Women Office. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the CJPA Supervisory Council.

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GIG DISCOTHEQUE
Saipan's Premier Night Club

B.N.B Bossano Bar

Looking for qualified
U.S. Workers

NIIZEKI INT'L. SAIPAN CO., LTD.
(1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(PART TIME)

GIG & BOSSANO BAR
(2) WAITRESSES

Please contact: Letty Santos at 234-5050 or 287-5148

SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

Position: **(1) FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER**
Qualifications: Strong background and experience in Food & Beverage preferably in the hospitality industry. Possess the ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. 5 years work experience required preferably in a hotel. Supervisory duties include instructing; assigning, reviewing and planning work of others; maintaining standards; coordinating activities; allocating recommending and approving employee promotions, transfers and discipline, and recommending discharge. Inspects restaurant, picnic areas and cart groupings for safety, food quality and presentation, associate and guest interaction, and organization and cleanliness of front lines, kitchen and storage areas, etc. Recommends the purchase of additional / replacement equipment; obtains price quotes for and purchases supplies and other food / non-food products. Ensures locations prepare, present and serve food on a timely basis. Ensure areas are monitored and any variance from specifications corrected. Coordinates with the Food Purchasing area to develop, set and review menu cost, retail pricing and recipe cards including creating new food menu items and ways to present food attractively. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early morning, evenings and/or weekends.

Position: **(1) EXECUTIVE CHEF**
Qualifications: 5 years work experience as a Sous Chef is required and preferably in the hospitality industry. The executive chef will train and manage kitchen personnel and supervise/coordinate all related culinary activities; estimate food consumption and requisition or purchase food; select and develop recipes; standardize production recipes to ensure consistent quality; establish presentation technique and quality standards; plan and price menus; ensure proper equipment operation/maintenance; and ensure proper safety and sanitation in kitchen. The executive chef may cook selected items or for select occasions. The executive chef may oversee special catering events and may also offer culinary instruction and/or demonstrate culinary techniques. The executive chef directly supervises kitchen personnel with responsibility for hiring, discipline, performance reviews and initiating pay increases. Typically reports to a food service director.

Position: **(1) ROOMS DIVISION MANAGER**
Qualifications: 5 years work experience preferably in the hotel industry. Able to plan, direct, and/or coordinate activities for the facility ensuring enjoyable experience for vacationing families and business travelers. Monitor departmental costs to ensure performance against budget. Must be able to solve problems quickly. Initiative, self-discipline and effective communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Proficient in Microsoft Office applications. Attend to crisis or emergency situations and perform service recovery. The ability to display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as befitting a member of management.

Position: **(1) GUEST RELATION AGENT**
Qualifications: 2 years work experience in providing quality customer service, preferably in hotel operations. Guest Relation Agent is responsible for providing guests fast, friendly and efficient service for the Chinese Tourim. Must have knowledge in Microsoft Office applications. Must have outstanding ability to perform several tasks at once. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays. Foreign language speaking skill is highly preferred.

Position: **(1) TRAINING MANAGER**
Qualifications: Minimum of 4 years work experience and training and must be a college graduate. Provides leadership and expertise for all Asia Pacific Hotel Saipan properties, primarily in tasks or functions of training, organizational development and employee relations and secondarily to provide assistance with programs of the Human Resources Division, to include but are not limited to quality control, work measurement, work methods and supervisory development. Consulting with other managers to identify training needs Drawing up an overall training plan managing a training budget producing materials for in-house training working with training providers to develop suitable course content evaluating the success of both individual training and the overall programmed. Managing regular staff appraisals and reviews, making sure staff have opportunities for ongoing development.

Position: **(1) PROMOTIONS (EVENTS) MANAGER**
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years work experience and must be a college graduate. Must have working knowledge on overall hotel operations, sales and marketing promotions, departmental planning coordination of projects, activities, computer operation marketing, promotions, people management, different cultures and nationalities. Creating and managing a detailed budget is often a key component of event planning. When the client is a government organization, the coordinator must be aware of all applicable laws and ethics concerns. Hotel event manager is responsible for producing an outline of the event's needs. This outline includes such details as meeting space, lodging for guests, food and drink accommodations, telecommunications, audio-visual needs and transportation. Event coordinators also draw up a contract for the client to sign, spelling out all of the details agreed upon. Ability to speak a foreign language will be a plus.

P.O. Box 500369, Saipan, MP 96950-0369 • TeL (670) 234-6601 • Fax. (670) 234-0410

No Wade, no problem for dominant Heat

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James had 33 points and 13 assists, Chris Bosh added 22 points and the Miami Heat hardly missed Dwyane Wade in a 118-83 rout of the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday night.

James also grabbed eight rebounds and the Heat turned up the defensive intensity without their star guard. Wade sat out with a sore left foot, and his status for Thursday's game at Atlanta is uncertain.

Roy Hibbert had 16 points and 12 rebounds to lead Indiana. Tyler Hansbrough scored 14.

Wade, a six-time All-Star, injured his foot in the second quarter at Charlotte on Dec. 28. He missed the first 10 minutes of the third period but played regular minutes the rest of the game and in the two that followed. He skipped Wednesday's shootaround, though.

The Heat had a scare late in the third quarter when James went down underneath the basket with an apparent left ankle injury.

James appeared to step on the foot of Indiana's Paul George while attempting a fast-break layup. But after staying on the court for a few seconds James got to his feet, prompting applause from the sellout crowd, and resumed breaking down the Pacers.

Indiana, a fashionable pick to be one of the surprise teams in the East, had a miserable second quarter, going 1 for 15 from the field and committing 10 turnovers that Miami turned into 10 points.

Miami took a 62-39 halftime lead thanks to a 25-6 run to close the second quarter.

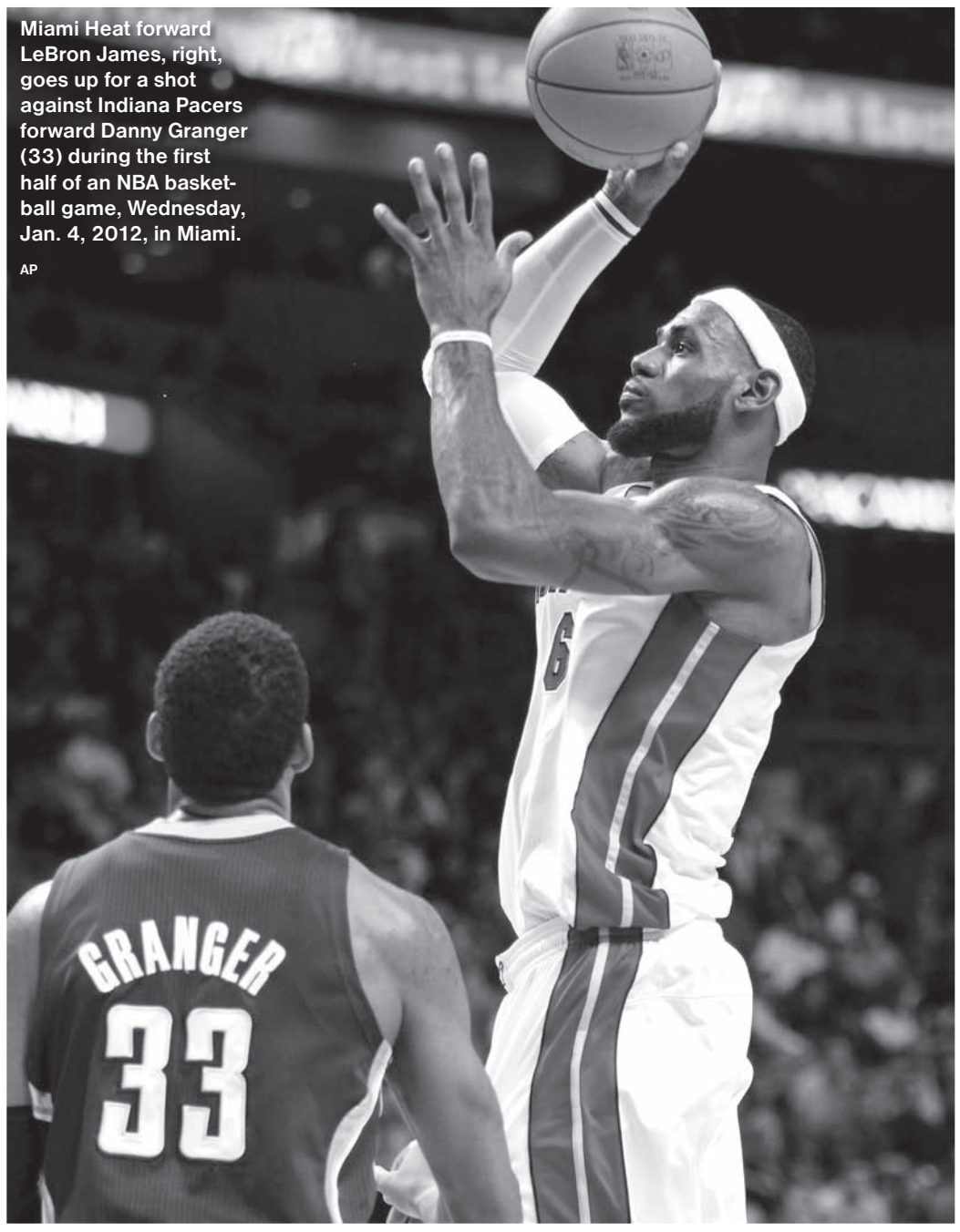
Indiana's main problem, however, was that it couldn't slow Miami's transition offense. And because the Pacers shot so poorly and committed so many turnovers, all the Heat had to do was grab the ball and start running, and they did it quite successfully.

The Pacers trailed 29-27 after the first quarter. But in the second half, they never got closer than 12 points and the lead eventually ballooned to 36.

Indiana's Danny Granger scored only six points on 2-for-13 shooting. He missed six of his seven shots in the first half and committed three turnovers.

The Pacers ended up shooting 34.8 percent from the field. They committed 23 turnovers that Miami turned into 28 points.

This was Indiana's biggest test of the season after beating Detroit, Toronto, Cleveland and New Jersey.



Miami Heat forward LeBron James, right, goes up for a shot against Indiana Pacers forward Danny Granger (33) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012, in Miami.

AP

Bulls 99, Pistons 83

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Richard Hamilton scored 14 points in his return to The Palace as Chicago shut down Detroit.

Hamilton started after missing the previous two games with a sore groin. He received a warm welcome from Detroit fans, appreciative of the nine years he gave the Pistons before being waived prior to this season.

Derrick Rose had 17 points and 10 assists for the Bulls, who had five players in double figures as they won their 12th in a row over Detroit.

Greg Monroe had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Pistons, while guard Rodney Stuckey sat out the second half with a groin strain.

Bobcats 118, Knicks 110

In New York, Boris Diaw rebounded from a dreadful game a night earlier with a season-high 27 points as Charlotte snapped a four-game losing skid with victory over New York.

Gerald Henderson added 24 for the Bobcats, who capped a three-game road trip by winning for the first time since their season opener.

The return from injury of Amare Stoudemire and Iman Shumpert put the Knicks' offense back on track but they simply couldn't guard Charlotte.

Stoudemire had 25 points and 12 rebounds after missing two games with a sprained ankle. Shumpert scored 18 off the bench.

Mavericks 98, Suns 89

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 20 points in his 1,000th NBA game to lead Dallas over Phoenix.

Jason Terry had 18 points, including nine in the fourth quarter, to help the defending NBA champions string together consecutive wins for the first time this season.

Steve Nash had 15 points and 12 assists for the Suns.

Clippers 117, Rockets 89

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 22 points and nine assists before sitting out most of the fourth quarter as Los Angeles cruised to an easy win over Houston.

Chris Paul added 20 points and 10 assists plus three steals for the Clippers, extending his streak to 14 consecutive games with at least one.

Kyle Lowry had 17 points and five assists for the Rockets, who had held the Clippers under 100 points in 14 of the previous 15 meetings, but could not do so again.

Spurs 101, Warriors 95

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored San Antonio's final six points to lead the Spurs past Golden State.

The Spurs were playing their first game without leading scorer Manu Ginobili, who will have surgery on his broken left hand and is expected to be out at least two months. The Warriors, meanwhile, lost Stephen Curry to a sprained ankle in the third quarter.

Monta Ellis scored 38 points on 15-of-30 shooting to lead Golden State. The Warriors led 75-70 entering the fourth quarter but Parker scored 10 points in the period.

The Spurs have won 27 straight games at home against the Warriors, last losing in 1996-97.

Celtics 89, Nets 70

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored nine of his 24 points during a game-breaking, third-quarter run that helped Boston overcome New Jersey.

Avery Bradley hit his first career 3-pointer for the Celtics, who have won four straight since dropping all three on a season-opening road trip.

Boston broke it open with an 18-3 run to close the third quarter.

MarShon Brooks' 17 points in his first career start led the Nets, who have lost six straight since a season-opening win at Washington.

New Jersey was without injured trio Deron Williams, Kris Humphries and Brook Lopez and lost Damion James to a foot injury in the second quarter.

Raptors 92, Cavaliers 77

In Toronto, Andrea Bargnani scored 31 points to lift Toronto to a comfortable win over Cleveland.

DeMar DeRozan added 25 points for the Raptors, who took the lead late in the first quarter and held it the rest of the way for their second victory of the season over the Cavaliers.

Antawn Jamison led Cleveland with 19 points.

Magic 103, Wizards 85

In Orlando, Dwight Howard had 28 points and 20 rebounds as Orlando overran winless Washington.

Ryan Anderson added 23 points and 15 rebounds for the Magice, who had four players in double figures while beating the Wizards for the seventh straight time.

The Wizards got 17 points from Nick Young, but shot poorly all night and trailed by as many as 28 in falling to 0-6 for the first time in franchise history. They remain the NBA's only winless team.

76ers 101, Hornets 93

In New Orleans, Jrue Holiday scored 14 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, leading Philadelphia over New Orleans.

Holiday, who was 3 for 9 from the field after three quarters, drained three 3-pointers and five of six shots the rest of the way. The 76ers trailed 73-67 at the end of the third, but Holiday scored 10 points as Philadelphia took the lead and pulled away.

Evan Turner added 21 points for the 76ers, who won for the third time during a franchise-record five-game road trip to start the season.

Eric Gordon led New Orleans with 22 points after missing four consecutive games with a bruised knee.

Grizzlies 90, Timberwolves 86

In Minneapolis, Rudy Gay had 19 points and eight rebounds, lifting Memphis over Minnesota in its first game since learning Zach Randolph would be out for six to eight weeks.

O.J. Mayo scored 11 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter.

Kevin Love had 27 points and 14 rebounds for the Timberwolves, becoming the first player since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1975 to record 20 points and 12 rebounds in each of his team's first six games.

Nuggets 110, Kings 83

In Denver, Al Harrington scored 15 points as Denver won its third straight, downing Sacramento.

Rudy Fernandez had 12 points to go with eight assists for the Nuggets, who have won their past six meetings with the Kings in Denver.

Playing the second of three games in three days, the Kings played from behind most of the night and lost guard Tyreke Evans for the last two quarters after he became ill.

The Kings, who remained winless in three road games this season, got 26 points from DeMarcus Cousins who was playing his second game since returning from a one-game team suspension for demanding a trade. Cousins denied making the demand.

Spurs' Ginobili to undergo surgery on broken hand

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Spurs guard Manu Ginobili will have surgery on his broken left hand and is expected to be out at least two months after his latest injury.

Ginobili tweeted Wednesday that he'll have a plate screwed onto his shooting hand Thursday. He broke his fifth metacarpal, below his pinkie, during the second quarter of a loss at Minnesota on Monday night.

"Not thrilled," Ginobili tweeted.

Ginobili was averaging 17.4 points a game, and San Antonio won't easily make up for losing its leading scorer who has overtaken Tim Duncan as the emotional and offensive centerpiece of the four-time champion Spurs.

Last season, after the 34-year-old sprained his elbow on the eve of the playoffs, Ginobili struggled through the first round wearing a bulky sleeve as Memphis upset the 61-win Spurs. Three years ago, Ginobili missed the postseason entirely with a bad ankle.

Although San Antonio's supporting cast this season is among the youngest of the Duncan era, the fate and fortunes of the Spurs still squarely rest with Ginobili, Tony Parker and Duncan, who will turn 36 in April and might be playing his final season.

Ginobili injured his hand in the season's fifth game when he fouled Anthony Tolliver as he jumped to shoot the ball.

"Six to eight weeks is the most common things that's been thrown around, so I assume that's what it is unless the docs figure out differently tomorrow," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

The Spurs host Golden State on Wednesday night.

Ginobili's injury is forcing the Spurs to put backup Gary Neal in uniform ahead of schedule after the second-year shooting guard had his appendix removed during training camp. Popovich said Neal would have certainly first played a few D-League games otherwise, but that's a luxury the Spurs can no longer afford.

"We figured we might as well go ahead and throw him in to the fire," Popovich said.

Tide and Tigers roll into New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—No. 1 LSU and No. 2 Alabama had just gotten into town, and already it felt a little like a home game for the Tigers.

"If we can't play this game in Tiger Stadium, the only place we'd rather play it is here," LSU offensive guard Will Blackwell said.

The Southeastern Conference rivals both arrived in New Orleans on Wednesday to prepare for the first BCS title game ever to feature teams from the same league.

For Alabama, it was a short flight, and a brass band greeted the Crimson Tide (11-1) as they got off the plane, while somebody shouted "Roll Tide!" as coach Nick Saban talked to reporters.

That was low key, though, compared to the band plus 100-or-so revved up fans and the big stuffed tiger that met LSU at a downtown hotel, sticking around even though they had to wait an extra 40 minutes because one of the Tigers' buses developed a problem on the way down from Baton Rouge and couldn't break 60 mph.

"The attachment to this city is one this team really feels," LSU coach Les Miles said. "You think (a greeting like this) is going to subside but this is going to continue for the week."

He wasn't worried about it all going to his players' heads. After all, LSU (13-0) has already won the SEC championship and beaten Alabama on its home field.

AP

The Third Line Brass Band greets LSU football players as they arrive in New Orleans on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012. LSU is scheduled to play Alabama in the BCS Championship NCAA college football game on Jan. 9.

"I think they know how to remove distractions," Miles said.

A trip to New Orleans was Alabama's goal all season, too.

"This is a special place, it's a special city, it's a special opportunity for our team to play against an outstanding LSU team," Saban said.

"In the spirit of competition, this is about as good as it gets."

The regular-season meeting between the SEC West rivals was in Tuscaloosa, Ala., a bare-knuckled brawl of a game the Tigers won 9-6 in overtime.

"The big thing that we've tried to focus on in terms of what we learned in that game is the technical aspects of things that that we could have done better, maybe from a schematic standpoint, maybe from an execution standpoint," Saban said.

"We did learn a lot from that game in terms of the things we can do better."

While some have questioned whether Alabama deserved a second chance at LSU and whether it's fair to the Tigers that they have to beat the Crimson Tide again to win a national championship, neither team feels that this game is anything other than winner take all.

"It's a one-game season right here and we know they're going to bring their all and they know we're going to bring our all," Alabama running back and Heisman Trophy finalist Trent Richardson said.

Few cities can throw a party like New Orleans and it's always been a hub of sorts for the SEC. The French Quarter should be awash in Alabama crimson and LSU purple and gold by the weekend.

It'll be fun—for the fans.

"Everybody's got their heads on right, so we're not expecting anybody to get into trouble," Richardson said. "It's strictly business for us."

Miles said he met with his team leaders and they suggested an early curfew.

"We have a very, very early curfew comparatively to other bowls that we've attended," he said, but did not go into details. "I think the celebration may be put off for a while."

Alabama is looking for its second BCS title in the last three seasons.

LSU is shooting for BCS championship No. 3. The previous two (2003 and 2007) were won in the Superdome.

Blackwell was a redshirt freshman on that '07 team, which beat Ohio State to win the title.

LSU fans clearly outnumbered Buckeyes fans back then. Alabama fans might not be so easy to drown out on Monday night.

"I would imagine it would be about as close to even as it could be," Blackwell said. "But Tiger fans are loud so we'll have to see during the game who the advantage really goes to."

Polian regrets not having backup plan for Colts

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Bill Polian made one big mistake in Indianapolis: Not having an adequate backup for Peyton Manning.

It cost the Colts vice chairman and his son their jobs.

On Wednesday, Polian told The Associated Press that not grooming a replacement for the injured Manning was the primary reason the Colts collapsed this season, going from Super Bowl contender to the league's worst record.

"I've always told the staff that our approach should be to hope for the best but plan for the worst, and I didn't do an adequate enough job of planning for the circumstances we were in," Polian said in a phone interview. "It led to this catastrophe."

When asked if he was referring specifically to finding a backup for Manning, Polian said: "Yes."

It's the first time Polian has commented since he and his son, general manager Chris Polian, were fired Monday.

The longtime NFL executive revived the Colts' brand name in two seasons, turning a moribund organization into one of the league's model franchises. During Polian's 14-year tenure, the Colts won 143 regular-season games, eight division titles, two AFC crowns and the first Super Bowl championship in the Indianapolis era.

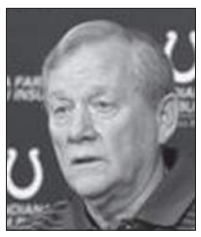
Even all that couldn't save Polian after a 2-14 record gave Indy the No. 1 draft pick.

"I understand what the dynamics are. So when you have the kind of season we had, there's always some accountability and that includes me," Polian said. "Was I surprised? No. The timing of it was a bit surprising, but not the end result."

Manning's neck injury changed everything.

The four-time league MVP never played after undergoing surgery Sept. 8, his third and most invasive procedure in 19 months. With Manning out, the Polians scrambled.

First, they brought 17-year veteran Kerry Collins, who Polian originally drafted in Carolina, out of retirement for $4 million. Collins didn't last a month. Curtis Painter, Manning's backup the previous two seasons, replaced Collins as the starter in Week 4 but struggled.



Polian

Still winless heading into December, the Colts finally turned to seven-year NFL veteran Dan Orlovsky, who ended a nine-game personal losing streak with two wins in five days just before Christmas.

But more could have and should have been done, Polian said.

"We probably could have straightened out the defensive situation a little earlier than we did, but that wasn't critical," Polian said, referring to the November firing of defensive coordinator Larry Coyer. "We needed to have a guy in place if Peyton had gone down and we didn't. It wouldn't have been a playoff season, I don't believe, if we had. But I didn't do it."

The outside perception was that other factors played into Jim Irsay's decision.

Some suspected the August acquisition of Collins didn't go over well within the organization.

Others questioned Polian's recent drafts, which produced little impact from former first-round picks Anthony Gonzalez, Donald Brown or Jerry Hughes until Brown's late-season surge in 2011.

There was even a rumored rift between Polian and Manning, something Polian called "completely untrue."

"He was the first person into the office after it happened," Polian said. "There's no rift at all. None."

In fact, Polian said, the two were speaking in the training room about Manning's offseason rehab plan when Irsay called him into the office. The two Polians then met separately with Irsay, and afterward, Bill Polian said, he and Manning talked for another 45 minutes. Polian declined to provide details of that discussion, calling it private.

Does Polian believe Manning will play again in 2012?

"I don't know. I can't answer that," he said. "I recognize that's been a frustration for fans, for you people in the media, and I wish I could have given you more concrete answers, but I just don't know. I hope for his sake if he wants to play and the situation is right for him, that he can play."

Polian's influence hasn't just been felt in Indy.

He laid the foundation Buffalo's four straight Super Bowl teams. He took Carolina to the NFC championship in the Panthers second season. He helped devise the NFL's salary cap, and has been a key player in reshaping many of the league's playing rules.

Six times, he was chosen The Sporting News executive of the year.

Yet Indy was the only place Polian ever won a Super Bowl and, strangely enough, it was the worst season of his tenure that produced the proudest moment and biggest regret.

"You might think I'm proudest of the Super Bowls and all the playoffs, the division championships, but I'm really proud of the way the guys handled this season," Polian said. "Regrets? I don't have any regrets other than a 2-14 season."

Colts fans might contend there should be one more regret on the list—not playing for the perfect season in 2009.

Polian disagrees.

"We just should have recovered the onside kick and not had the interception," he said, referring to two plays in the Super Bowl loss.

He said he has no hard feelings about Irsay, and credited the Colts owner with giving him everything he needed to win. The two have been friends for three decades, and Polian said he would welcome Irsay attending the Pro Football Hall of Fame induction ceremony if he makes it.

For Polian, the hardest part wasn't getting fired. It was seeing his son lose his job.

"The family part of it is the hardest part, whether it's Chris or any of the people that are close to me," he said. "Saying goodbye to people is the hardest part. When you've been here 14 years, you've built up a lot of relationships. I've told the players for years and years to prepare for life after football because this is a terminal profession for all of us and that's true. But I've been far, far luckier than the vast majority of people. I've worked for a great person, a great owner in Jim."

Polian said he hasn't considered whether he will return to football, though he will try to help his son and others land new jobs.

Torre quits MLB to pursue Dodgers ownership

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Torre resigned Wednesday as Major League Baseball's executive vice president for baseball operations to join a group trying to buy the Los Angeles Dodgers.

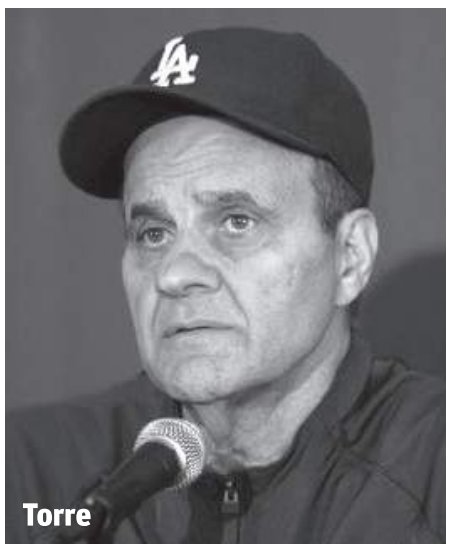
Torre managed the Dodgers from 2008-10, then retired and was hired by MLB last February as a top aide to Commissioner Bud Selig. He is part of a group headed by real estate developer Rick Caruso.

"In Rick I found a partner who understands consumers and fully appreciates that the Dodgers are a treasured LA institution," Torre said in a statement. "Since moving to Los Angeles, I have seen firsthand Rick's dedication to business and the people of Los Angeles.'

The Dodgers were put up for sale by owner Frank McCourt in November, five months after the team filed for bankruptcy. Following months of bickering and accusations of mismanagement, an agreement between McCourt and MLB said the team is to be sold by April 30, which coincides with the deadline for McCourt to pay former wife Jamie a $131 million divorce settlement.

Initial bids for the team are due by Jan. 23 with the Blackstone Group, Frank McCourt's investment banker. The price likely will break the record for a baseball franchise, topping the $845 million paid by the Ricketts family for the Chicago Cubs in 2009.

"Joe has a proven track record of fielding winning teams and I am looking forward to our group benefiting from his unique experience," Caruso said in a statement. "I am a lifelong Angeleno; I love this city and have dedicated my career to creating world-class destinations that support this community and foster great customer experiences. Joe and I believe in the Dodgers and Dodger fans and know that together we will foster a winning culture."


Torre

He is president of Caruso Affiliated, which developed The Grove, a 20-acre retail, dining and entertainment site adjacent to the Farmers Market in Los Angeles. Former Goldman Sachs vice chairman Byron Trott is the group's banker and O'Melveny & Myers is its law firm.

Torre, the 1971 National League MVP, was a nine-time All-Star during a playing career from 1960-77, then managed the New York Mets, Atlanta Braves and St. Louis Cardinals. After working as a broadcaster for the Angels, he managed the New York Yankees from 1996-07 and guided them to four World Series titles.

With MLB, the 71-year-old Torre delegated much of the day-to-day work to three senior vice presidents he appointed in March: former Arizona GM Joe Garagiola Jr., former Dodgers assistant GM Kim Ng and former Arizona assistant GM Peter Woodfork.

"Joe has been an invaluable resource for me and all of us at Major League Baseball this year," Selig said in a statement. "I understand his desire to pursue an opportunity in Los Angeles. Joe has been a lifelong friend and I know that will continue in the future."

Other potential bidders for the Dodgers include:

■ Steven Cohen of the hedge fund SAC Capital Advisors.

■ a group that includes former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson, former Atlanta Braves and Washington Nationals president Stan Kasten and Guggenheim Partners chief executive officer Mark Walter.

■ a group that includes former agent and current Chicago White Sox special assistant Dennis Gilbert, talk show host Larry King and Jason Reese of Imperial Capital.

■ a group that includes former Dodgers general manager Fred Claire, former Oakland Athletics president Andy Dolich and former Dodgers batboy Ben Hwang, who brought in the financial backers

■ former Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley.

■ a group that includes former Dodgers stars Orel Hershiser and Steve Garvey, and Joey Herrick of Natural Balance Pet Foods.

■ Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban.

Winners of six World Series titles but none since 1988, the Dodgers have been in turmoil since October 2009, when the McCourts separated and Frank fired Jamie as the team's chief executive officer.

Selig installed former Texas Rangers president Tom Schieffer as the Dodgers' financial monitor in April, ruling he must approve any expense of $5,000 or more.

The Dodgers finished third in the NL West at 82-79, had just three sellouts and fell short of 3 million in home attendance in a full season for the first time since 1992.

Source: Marlins acquire Zambrano from Cubs

MIAMI (AP)—Carlos Zambrano will get a much-needed fresh start with the Miami Marlins.

The Chicago Cubs traded their former ace Wednesday for Marlins right-hander Chris Volstad, pending physicals and approval by Major League Baseball, a person familiar with the negotiations said. The person confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the teams hadn't announced a deal.

Zambrano wore out his welcome in Chicago because of repeated meltdowns and tantrums. The most recent came when he cleaned out his locker and talked about retiring after giving up five homers and being ejected during a loss to Atlanta on Aug. 12. He was suspended without pay and then it was decided he would sit out the rest of the season.

In Miami he'll be joining another former Chicagoan, Ozzie Guillen, who expressed interest in acquiring Zambrano when he was hired as the Marlins' manager in October after stepping down as the White Sox's skipper. Zambrano joins a franchise on the upswing after a winter spending spree resulted in the signings of All-Stars Jose Reyes, Mark Buehrle and Heath Bell.

Zambrano finished last year 9-7 with a 4.82 ERA. The Cubs expected more when he signed a $91.5 million deal over five seasons through 2012, including a $17,875,000 million salary last season and $18 million in 2012. As part of the trade, they'll likely pay much of his salary.

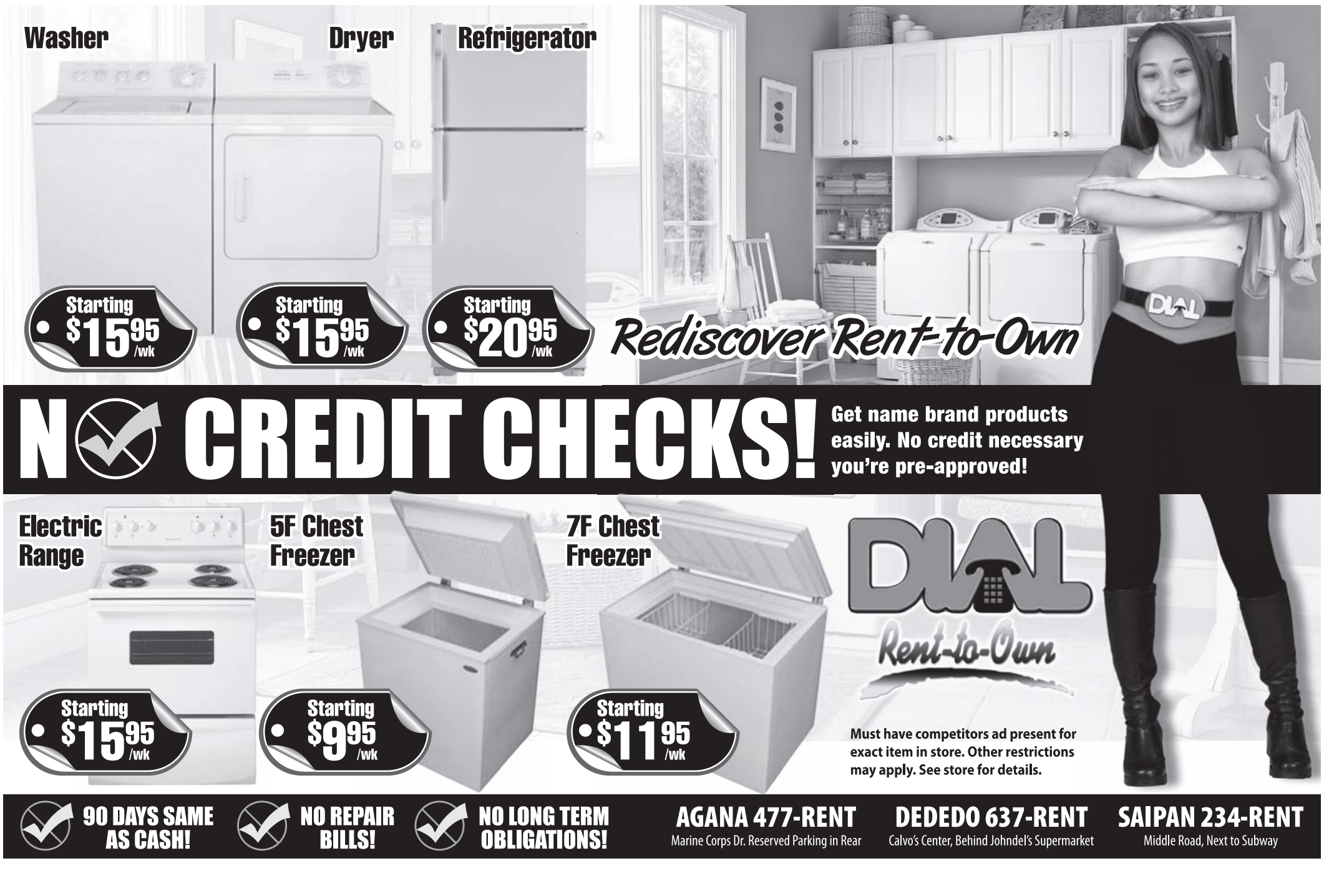
Volstad went 5-13 last year with an ERA of 4.89, and his career record is 32-39. He has given up 69 homers over the past three seasons, which could mean trouble for him at Wrigley Field.

Zambrano is 125-81 with a 3.60 ERA after breaking in with the Cubs in 2001, and he threw a no-hitter against the Astros. But he had difficulty controlling his temper.

In 2007, he got into a fight with teammate Michael Barrett, first in the dugout and then in the locker room. Barrett ended up with a bruise under his eye and a cut lip.

In 2009, he went on tirade against an umpire, throwing a baseball into the outfield, pretending to eject the umpire and slamming his glove against the dugout fence, a tantrum that led to a suspension.

In 2010, Zambrano was placed on the restricted list for six weeks and sent to anger management after a verbal altercation with then-teammate Derrek Lee.



Pirata wins Obyan Budweiser Cup

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REOPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fifth seated Pirata, pictured in this file photo, defeated first place Shark Attack, of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill, 4-1, in a home match at D'Pirates Bar, on Monday to become the SBA Obyan division Budweiser Cup champions.

D'Pirates Bar's Pirata shocked division leader Shark Attack of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill, 4-1, and was hailed as Saipan Billiards Association's Obyan Division Budweiser Cup postseason tournament champions after the conclusion of Monday's finals held at D'Pirates Bar.

Pirata is made up of Joey Agulto, Dave Maratita, James Reyes, Randy Sablan, and Richard Santos.

Pirata got off to a good start, sweeping both doubles matches via tiebreakers and went on to take two of the next three singles games for the crown.

Pirata's duos of Agulto and Sablan and Reyes and Maratita each got it done in doubles play, after which Pirata's Santos and Maratita hung tough in the clutch.

Santos swiftly won the first singles pairing, while Maratita later clinched the championship for his team in three sets.

Surprisingly, Pirata finished the regular season all the way down in fifth place out of six teams, but still managed to spoil Shark Attack's run for a perfect season.

Pirata received a bye through the first round and then knocked off bottom-feeder Titans of 19th Hole Bar to advance to the finals.

Shark Attack downed runner-up squad Crazy 8 and third-ranked Team SCS, both of Jonny's Bar & Grill, before stalling in the finals showdown.

The SBA awards banquet is set to take place at 10:30am on Sunday at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Contact league secretary Warlee Ellama at 233-4397 for more information.

XGA Ace of Aces tomorrow

The X-clusive Golfers Association will hold its 2011 Ace of Aces Tournament in tandem with its 2012 January Ace tomorrow morning, Jan. 7, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Show time is set a 10am with an 11am shotgun start. An awards banquet is planned immediately following the event, however its location is still being determined.

XGA is also holding its annual general membership meeting for the 2012 season this morning at 8:30am in the Skyway Café along Airport Road.

There are currently about 30 active members in the group and plenty room for more. An annual fee of $50 is required from all new members.

Contact XGA's Jay Cabrera at 287-9478 for more information. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

KAI

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as I did," Kai said.

Kai's parents, Patty and Mark are still here on Saipan, and allowed their son to live with his grandparents in Ashland and spend his last year in high school at Ashland.

"My grandparents live in Ashland, Oregon, and they had offered me to move in with them and finish my senior year last March. At the time, I couldn't see it happening. Once I got to the states however, I visited the school and its programs and I could see myself really enjoying the change. I decided to stay in Oregon a week before my scheduled flight back to Saipan late July. By that time I met kids on the water polo team who took me in as family and people really welcomed me. The wider array of opportunities such as jobs, internships, and high school sports really appealed to me. I wanted to reach out and expand my horizon," the 18-year-old swimmer said.

Staal finally enrolled at Ashland High School, but had to go through a hearing with OSAA to be able to swim for his new school.

"After a long process of small court rulings and working through the District Committee and getting denied, I was finally approved a hearing with the head of the OSAA and a panel of community members involved in high school sports. My grandpa and I had a phone conference with them and I gave a small speech about how the ineligibility was affecting me. I discussed why it was an unfair consequence because the rule was intended for kids that were recruited from other schools to play sports. Clearly that was not my case. Twenty minutes after the phone conference they called back with a unanimous approval for my eligibility. From there on I was free to play sports," the former Saipan International School student said.

Staal joined his first competition for Ashland—the Shakespear Invitational—and then last month raced against North Medford where he set a new record for his school in the 100yard breaststroke event.

"It was great competing in my first tournament here and it made me realize how much I enjoyed racing. I was nervous at first because I heard about this guy named Aron who is at my level of racing and he proved to be a great competitor. He beat me in both the 50yard and 100yard freestyle This was before the high school season started so I hadn't trained since May," Staal said.

However, once he returned to the pool, Staal started getting his old form and showed his worth to his new squad.

The 2010 Micronesian Games multiple gold medalist said he will not be able make a mark in Ashland if not for the support of Tsunami Saipan, his teammates, and coach Hiro Kimura.

"Everything I have learned from coach Hiro and Tsunami Saipan I continue to practice in my life. I have been able to give tips to my teammates in Ashland. To Tsunami swimmers, the past several years of training with you all has been great. I have seen you guys improve so much and I hear about all the records that keep falling. I know how much hard work you put into the sport and the rewards are well deserved," said Staal, who joined his former teammates' training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool when he came home two weeks ago.

6 EVENTS

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Island Invitational 1, which is set for Jan. 21 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. Northern Marianas Swimming Federation will sanction the first meet and two more will follow with the second one scheduled for Feb 18 and the last for April 28. The series are also expected to draw swimmers from Saipan Swim Club and Guam.

The club will also organize a 20-meter short course meet for beginners on March 10. Tsunami Saipan hosted the same short course event for the visiting Hong Kong Sword Fish Swim Club in August last year. Fifty-six swimmers joined the race, including six from Hong Kong.

A week after the short course meet, a few Tsunami Saipan swimmers will be going to Japan for the Tokyo Junior Sprint, which is set for March 17 and 18. This is the same event where Kensuke Kimura, Ryuto and Kaito Yanai, and Lukas Kang were scheduled to compete, but the short course meet (25-meter pool) was cancelled after tsunami and earthquake hit Japan in March.

Tsunami Saipan's last off-island tournament for the 2011-2012 season will be the Guam Championships slated for May 25 and 26.

"We have yet to decide how many swimmers we will sending to Guam, but the qualifying time is BB and we set up more strict regulation for the Guam meet. Tsunami swimmers need more than three BB times," Kimura said.

Once the 2011-2012 season is completed, the club will have its annual recognition day, honoring the rookie of the year, top swimmer, best in attendance, and other achievers.

For the 2010-2011 season, 9-year-old Miku Tammy was the top newcomer, while Kang claimed the top swimmer plum. Brothers Kaito, Ryuto, and Hiroto Yanai, Ryosei Toda, and Kensuke Kimura were also recognized for recording 90 percent in practice attendance and Rezne Wong, Kai Staal, and Shin Kimura for their contribution to the CNMI swim team that competed in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

MDX

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double figures for the team with a quiet 11 markers. His completed three-point play in the opening minutes of the third quarter gave Pacific Postal its first taste of the lead, 33-32, since the 2-0 count in the first period.

Then in the next eight and a half minutes of the third quarter, Pacific Postal was held to four points, while the backcourt combination of Zack Babauta and Ziddy Johanes and inside play of big man Alex Lauron helped MDX regain full control of the match. The trio scored all of MDX's 21 points in the third quarter, turning a 32-27 halftime lead to a 14-point advantage, 53-39, entering the final period. Pacific Postal was held to 12 points in the third canto and made only three field goals.

Pacific Postal's offensive woes continued in the fourth, as it could not penetrate MDX's defense inside, forcing the former to take a bundle of shots from downtown. Pacific Postal was limited to 10 points and scored two triples when the game was already in the bag for MDX.

Johanes top-scored for MDX with 15 points, while Lauron and Babauta contributed 14 and 10, respectively.

Lauron nailed MDX's first and last basket in the opening canto, which ended in a deadlock, 15-15, as Pacific Postal finished the quarter with back-to-back triples.

A 15-4 scoring run in the first seven minutes of the second frame gave MDX its biggest lead in the first half, before it was held to only two free throws in the last three minutes of that canto. MDX's poor finish in the second half then allowed Pacific Postal to move within five at the break and the latter continued to recover early in the third only to run out of offensive options in the majority of the second half.

Meanwhile, the second playoff pairing between Blue Haus/Satbahi and FGC was rained out with the former ahead, 60-43, 5:08 to go in the game.

The match will resume after the playoff tiff between SCS Heavy Equipment Rental and 8th Division this Saturday. SCS and 8th Division will duel at 6pm.

Blue Haus contained FCG to four points in the first nine minutes of the suspended match to take early control of the match.

FGC picked up its scoring a bit in the second period, nailing 11 markers for a 17-point total. However, Blue Haus behind Badong Camacho and Leo Itaas doubled FGC's output to turn a 14-6 cushion to a 38-17 halftime lead. FGC still failed to buy consecutive baskets in the first half, as it resorted to one-on-one plays, while Blue Haus scored a lot off its extra passes and good players rotation.

The advantaged ballooned to as much as 25 early in the third, 42-17, before FGC launched a 15-2 rally and moved within 12 after White Capalad's short jumper, 44-32. However, Blue Haus pulled away again, 52-32, with Sam Fernandez and Brandon Talania drilling one triple apiece and Camacho making a baseline jumper.

Talania picked up where he left of in the fourth quarter, scoring all of Blue Haus' seven points in that period to keep their wide distance against FGC. FGC failed to make headway in the first half of the final period, as it only matched Blue Haus' output before rain suspended play.

Meanwhile after the continuation of the FGC-Blue Haus tussle, Wushin Express and Sherwin Williams will have their own win-or-go-home game. Then the semis pairings will be determined once the first round of the playoffs is completed.

MDX/Blue Haus 74 – Johanes 15, Lauron 14, Babauta 10, Tenorio 8, Lisua 6, Palacios 6, Lansang 5, Park 4, Diaz 2.

Pacific Postal Plus 49 – Yabut 11, M. Usi 9, R. Usi 7, Tenepere 7, Acosta 5, Bicera 5, Johnson 4.

Scoring by quarters: 15-15, 32-27, 53-39, 74-49.

CUKI

From Page 32

Guerrero and Wyeneu "One Time" Bamba in Gorilla Warfare 1: Predator or Prey and PXC 19, respectively.

He beat Deleon Guerrero by referee stoppage due to flurry of punches in August 2008, while Bamba fell via a north South Kimura arm lock during their bout in May 2010.

"I know I have the work ethic and skill set to fight at anytime, I just need to have the burning desire and mindset to want to do it again. I am at a point in my life where I am very content with just teaching and guiding my fighters and have them compete under my tutelage. It gives me a greater satisfaction and accomplishment more than fighting itself," Alvarez said on his decision to fight sparingly.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	3	2	.600	—
Boston	4	3	.571	—
Toronto	3	3	.500	1/2
New York	2	4	.333	1 1/2
New Jersey	1	6	.143	3

Southeast Division

Miami	6	1	.857	—
Orlando	5	2	.714	1
Atlanta	4	2	.667	1 1/2
Charlotte	2	4	.333	3 1/2
Washington	0	6	.000	5 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	6	1	.857	—
Indiana	4	2	.667	1 1/2
Cleveland	3	3	.500	2 1/2
Milwaukee	2	3	.400	3
Detroit	2	4	.333	3 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	4	2	.667	—
Memphis	3	3	.500	1
Dallas	3	4	.429	1 1/2
Houston	2	4	.333	2
New Orleans	2	4	.333	2

Northwest Division

Portland	4	1	.800	—
Denver	5	2	.714	—
Oklahoma City	5	2	.714	—
Utah	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Minnesota	2	4	.333	2 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	3	2	.600	—
L.A. Lakers	4	3	.571	—
Phoenix	2	4	.333	1 1/2
Golden State	2	4	.333	1 1/2
Sacramento	2	5	.286	2

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 92, Cleveland 77
Orlando 103, Washington 85
Boston 89, New Jersey 70
Chicago 99, Detroit 83
Miami 118, Indiana 83
Charlotte 118, New York 110
Philadelphia 101, New Orleans 93
Memphis 90, Minnesota 86
Dallas 98, Phoenix 89
San Antonio 101, Golden State 95
Denver 110, Sacramento 83
L.A. Clippers 117, Houston 89

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RBC-IT&E Christmas Youth Caging

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A DYS player gets ready to block a shot against the Docomo Rollers in U15 play of RBC's 2nd Annual IT&E Christmas Youth Basketball Tournament held Tuesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Proa-B's Jon Jon Capuyon converts a nice put-back in Wednesday's U15 game against Rollers A.

DYS' Ed Cudio wrestles rebound against Docomo Rollers in Tuesday's U15 game.

Rollers A's Lester Vertudez battles hard for a shot in the paint against Proa-B last Wednesday.

Rollers A's Dai Lixing streaks past Proa B's William Camacho in U15 play last Wednesday.

A Rollers AA player looks for a way around a Rollers A defender in Tuesday's U12 match.

Rollers A's Chioni Dela Cruz drives to the basket in Tuesday's U12 game against Rollers AA.

RBC head coach Joe Diaz draws up the play for Rollers AA during a timeout against Rollers A in U12 play last Tuesday.

DYS' Renan Lansang goes for a finger roll against Docomo Rollers in Tuesday's U15 match.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Kai resumes pursuit of swim records

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kai Staal gets ready to plunge into the pool during a tournament sanctioned by the Oregon School Activities Association last month. Staal now swims for Ashland High School.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI swimmer Kai Staal left Saipan last week after a brief Christmas vacation to resume his quest for records, which was a far-fetched goal several months ago after he was deemed ineligible to race for Ashland High School.

ATHLETES ABROAD

"Well, our team does not actually have tryouts, however I did have a problem with the Oregon School Activities Association. They ruled me ineligible to play high school sports for the first couple of months in Ashland because my parents did not live in the same school district

See KAI on Page 30

MDX clinches first semis seat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MDX/Blue Haus barged into the semifinals of the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League after routing Pacific Postal Plus, 74-49, during the first round of the playoffs last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Court Basketball.

MDX capitalized on Pacific Postal second-half collapse to post an easy victory. Pacific Postal, who was seeded last in the playoffs and faced the pennant champ and undefeated MDX was held to 22 points in the second half to bow out of the competition with a winless record.

Pacific Postal's offense was so lackluster that only Rex Yabut broke into

See MDX on Page 30

MDX' Ben Lisua goes for a reverse layup against Pacific Postal Plus' Rex Yabut during their playoff game in the DLX caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

6 events await Tsunami Saipan swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan swimmers have six remaining events before completing the 2011-2012 season, leaving more room for improvements and records.

"Our swimmers still have several meets left for the season. Breaking records is only one of their goals and the others are to do their best in every practice, keep a good attitude on and off the pool, and build a strong team," Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* when asked what's up for his wards this year.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers will start the year with the All

See 6 EVENTS on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a group photo during a break in their training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi last month.

Cuki mulls return fight

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Cuki "The Flying Cockroach" Alvarez said he is open to returning to the octagon if the opponent and price is right.

The Trench Tech Promotions president, who has a 6-0 win-loss slate in MMA, said he believes he still has what it takes to succeed in the sport but is simply waiting for a fight opportunity he simply couldn't refuse.

Alvarez

"If and only if an opportunity arises with PXC (Pacific Xtreme Championship) or another organization and the money is right, I may consider doing it again. We'll just have to wait and see…Eli Monge of PXC are you reading this?" he said.

The now 41-year-old fighter started his MMA career with a first round stoppage of Billy "The Kid" Ada at FURY 7 in December 2005.

He then made it 2-0 when he defeated Joey Tajeron via shoulder dislocation in March 2006 at FURY Fighting Islands 4.

Alvarez ran his record to 3-0 after winning his bout against Leo "Lion Heart" Cing via unanimous decision at FURY 8 in December 2006.

Brian "Shotgun" Howard was the next to fall against "The Flying Cockroach" after losing via head-and-arm triangle choke submission in PXC 13: Back From The Dead in December 2007.

Alvarez's last two fight came against Pete "Dragon" Deleon

See CUKI on Page 30